

Saud says King Fahd is fit

TOKYO (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal on Wednesday ruled out rumours that the condition of the ailing King Fahd had worsened, saying that the 75-year-old monarch was fit. "He is following his routine," he told NHK television in an interview. "All the reports by the doctors are very reassuring." The Saudi foreign minister, the first to visit Japan in 25 years, arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit and met with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko earlier in the day. His remarks about the king follow rumours that he appears to be no more than a figurehead as he has trouble concentrating and is often absent from official functions despite returning to the throne following a stroke last November. There have been reports for months that King Fahd is planning to take a vacation at his summer palace in Marbella, Spain, where Time magazine reported this week he might stay permanently in a de facto abdication.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Crown Prince meets league delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday stressed the need to start Arab-Arab dialogue with the Arab League. Prince Hassan said during meeting with an Arab League delegation which is currently on a visit to Jordan that "we should take the initiative to solve our own problems through dialogue and to make use of others expertise like East Asia." Attending the meeting was Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madadha.

U.S. firms allowed to import Iraqi oil

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. companies will be allowed to import Iraqi oil sold to raise \$2 billion for food and medicine, administration sources said on Wednesday. "It has been confirmed that U.S. firms will be allowed to participate fully in Iraqi oil sales under (United Nations) Resolution 986," an administration official said on condition of anonymity. Before international sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990, U.S. companies had imported more than 600,000 barrels per day of Iraqi oil.

Iraq denies holding Kuwaiti prisoners

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Wednesday it no longer holds prisoners from its 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait and accused the emirate of exploiting the issue for political reasons. Iraq "holds no Kuwaiti or any other prisoners, and all the prisoners have been freed in line with (U.N.) Security Council Resolution 686," ending the 1991 Gulf war to free Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry said. "Iraq is working seriously to clear up the fate of the missing who Kuwait says are detained in Iraq," the ministry said, quoted by the Iraqi news agency. Baghdad "warns the Kuwaiti authorities of the dangers of exploiting the feelings of the families of the missing for unhealthy political reasons," it added.

Iran army tests new cannon

TEHRAN (AFP) — The army has successfully tested a new 122-mm self-drive cannon which was designed and built in Iran, the newspaper Jomhuri Islami reported on Wednesday. It said the cannon, named Raad-1 (Thunder-1), can fire five shells a minute with a range of 15 kilometres. The Raad has a computer firing system linked to a laser range-finder, and it is highly accurate, a military official told the paper. The cannon moves on an armoured chassis which can travel at 65 kilometres an hour. The official said its performance matches any on the international market.

Christian convert ruled apostate in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A Kuwaiti who converted from Islam to Christianity said on Wednesday that any faithful Muslim could now kill him with impunity after the civil courts declared him an apostate. "When (the judge) says I am an apostate according to sharia Islamic law any Muslim now has the right to kill me and will not be punished," a visibly shocked Hussein Qambar Ali, who calls himself Robert Qambar, said after the verdict was announced. As a result of Wednesday's court ruling, Mr. Qambar may also be stripped of his nationality and civil rights for offending Islamic law by abandoning his faith, although he has the opportunity to appeal. "I guess I'd like to appeal to the courts and I will see from there," Mr. Qambar, wearing a large gold crucifix outside his shirt, said minutes after the judgement.

Peres won premiership, could form coalition, exit polls show

Combined agency despatches

LABOUR PRIME Minister Shimon Peres beat his right-wing challenger Benjamin Netanyahu Wednesday in Israel's first direct election of a prime minister in a close victory seen as saving the beleaguered Middle East peace process, according to television estimates.

Mr. Peres could also form a coalition government based on an exit poll. Channel One television said.

It said the polls showed Mr. Peres could garner a 66-to-54 seat majority in parliament based on the support of leftist and centrist parties and the ultra-orthodox Shas Party.

Statistician Avi Dgani said Mr. Peres won 52.5 per cent of the vote against 47.5 for Mr. Netanyahu, according to a telephone survey by Channel Two Television.

He said in an interview on Channel Two that the poll was a representative sample of the population and was completed more than 90 minutes later than an exit poll that showed a narrower gap between Mr. Peres and his challenger.

Israel's two television networks said earlier that in exit polls Mr. Peres had a lead of 50.7 per cent to 49.3 per cent at the close of voting at 10:00 p.m. (1900 GMT), but they cautioned the results were not yet final.

Likud leaders said the results were only estimates and the outcome could still

Following is a breakdown of parties expected to win seats in the 120-member Knesset, according to an exit poll taken by Israel's Channel 2 TV: (figures in brackets show the number of seats the parties held in the outgoing parliament)

Labour, 35 (44)
Likud 32 (32)
Meretz, 11 (12)
National Religious Party 9 (6)
Shas 8 (6)
Yisrael with Immigration 6 (new party)
Hadash, 6 (3)
United Torah Judaism, 4 (4)
Third Way, 4 (new party)
Moladet 3 (3)
Democratic Arab Front 2 (2)

Two seats in the current Knesset held by independent parties but they would not win any seat in Wednesday's election.

change as the official vote count proceeded, but activists at the Likud campaign centre in Tel Aviv were stunned and crying.

In parallel polling for the 120-member Knesset, Labour was credited with 37 seats to 31 for Likud-led right-wing alliance, a loss of seven seats for Labour and nine for Likud and its allies compared to the previous Knesset elected in 1992.

Interior Minister Haim Ramon did not hesitate to declare victory for Mr. Peres and Labour.

"We have won by a nose," he said as Labour activists

burst into screams of joy at their election party in Tel Aviv.

But the head of the Dahaf polling institute, Mina Tzema, urged caution saying "this estimation does not include the vote of the soldiers which will only be known in several hours."

She said in the last polls in 1992 the soldiers had overwhelmingly voted for the right.

Wednesday's election was seen worldwide as a referendum on the land-for-peace process with Palestinians which was designed by Mr. Peres and implemented by

his assassinated predecessor Yitzhak Rabin.

Mr. Netanyahu also campaigned on a pro-peace platform, but insisted that Israel's top priority must be security, ruled out making any further territorial concessions to Palestinians and supported expanding Jewish settlements in the territories.

Although the vote for the Knesset gave neither Labour nor Likud a clear majority, according to the television estimates Mr. Peres should have no difficulty putting together a coalition with Meretz and Arab-Israeli parties.

The earlier estimates of the Knesset vote gave Meretz Labour's left-wing ally in the outgoing government, 10 seats, down two, the ultra-orthodox Shas Party nine seats (up three) and seven for the New party of Russian-speaking immigrants, Israel B'alya.

The Arab-Jewish far-left Hadash Party was credited with four seats, up one from the outgoing parliament elected in 1992, the ultra-orthodox United Torah Judaism four seats (same). Third Way three seats, the far-right Moladet three seats and the United Arab lists three.

Despite the suspense, the mood was relaxed and friendly in most of the country, with just scattered reports of violence, including of a woman who was arrested after spraying teargas in a room

(Continued on page 7)



Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres casts his vote in a Tel Aviv polling booth on Wednesday (Reuters photo)

Moves seen gathering speed for convening Arab summit

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Tunisia said on Wednesday it was in contact with fellow Arab states to coordinate a unified stand before holding a proposed Arab summit — the first since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Visiting Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia said he was holding continuous contact with the Arab League and Arab states to find "suitable ways to unify Arab viewpoints" and pave the way to "ensure success and the realisation of goals before any meeting."

His remarks, quoted by the official United Arab Emi-

rates (UAE) WAM news agency, followed talks with UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al Nuaimi.

The Arab League, currently headed by Tunisia, was divided when Iraq invaded Kuwait by differences on how to tackle the crisis. Some member states opposed the intervention of U.S.-led western troops to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

The league held its last summit in Cairo days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Tunisia, which opposed foreign intervention in the Gulf, was the only Arab state not to attend that summit.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein have agreed to meet in Amman in June after Israel's general elections to coordinate strategy.

Mr. Arafat said in remarks published on Monday that the summit might be expanded to include other Arab leaders.

King Hussein on Tuesday described as unjustified the interruption of regular Arab summits since the Gulf crisis.

In Cairo, President Mubarak said Syrian President

(Continued on page 7)

Iraq 'has not set conditions' for increased imports from Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraq is not attaching any political condition to giving priority to Jordan in imports from proceeds of Baghdad's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations, an Iraqi embassy spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, Adel Ibrahim, was replying to a question prompted by reports carried in local tabloids that Baghdad had set a list of preconditions for restoring normal relations with Jordan and returning to the old status quo where Iraq would use Jordan as the main conduit for imports and the Kingdom's industrial exports would receive preferential treatment in the government-dominated Iraqi market.

The reports, which were only informally denied by Jordanian officials, said the purported conditions included demands such as the

government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti be removed from power, the office here of the Iraqi National Accord be closed and other opposition activities be curbed, defector Nizar Khasraji be returned to Iraq and Jordanian criticism of the policies of the Baghdad government be stopped.

Mr. Ibrahim categorically denied that such demands were made.

"The Iraqi government has not presented any demands or conditions to the Jordanian government related to trade with Jordan," Mr. Ibrahim told the Jordan Times.

"Iraq respects the principle that trade is a normal state of relations between two countries and does not attach demands and preconditions," he added.

Jordanian sources also rejected the reports as unfounded. "It is sheer nonsense and has no base whatsoever," said a well-placed

source. "Jordan has received no such conditions from Iraq and we don't expect to receive any either."

Officials at the Amman Chamber of Industry, the main Jordanian organisation facilitating exports to Iraq, also denied the report.

"As far as we know, and we should be among those who know, there are no such Iraqi demands or conditions," said Ali Dajani, an advisor to Amman Chamber of Industry President Khalid Abu Hassan.

"The Iraqi side has told us to send a delegation to Baghdad to ascertain the precise needs of the Iraqi market and make offers," said Mr. Dajani, adding that this was the net outcome of recent meetings held here by a team representing Iraqi businessmen.

"We are in fact seeking details about the mechanisms

(Continued on page 7)

Hariri accuses Hizbollah of 'weakening' Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri on Wednesday launched a stinging attack on the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, accusing the Shiite fundamentalists of undermining the state's authority and wanting to monopolise resistance against Israel.

"The Lebanese state does not agree with the political plans of Hizbollah, its penchant for holding spectacular parades, nor with its habit of continually undermining the state," said Mr. Hariri in a statement.

"The alliances and the political plans of this party are aimed at weakening the authority of the state on more than one level and in more than one region," he said.

The statement added that Mr. Hariri had "repeatedly said that the Lebanese government does not agree with that party's (Hizbollah) poli-

tical platform, its literature, its exhibitionist conduct, and its logic of constantly challenging the state," said the statement.

Hizbollah Secretary General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah Monday told a huge rally commemorating the Shiite holiday of Ashoura, including hundreds of would-be suicide bombers in combat gear, that Mr. Hariri had insulted Hizbollah and its armed wing, the Islamic resistance.

"Correct your understanding of the resistance and correct your vocabulary when you speak of the resistance," Mr. Nasrallah said in reference to Mr. Hariri during the rally in Beirut's mostly Shiite southern suburbs.

"If your vocabulary does not help you then take some lessons in Arabic composition," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Publisher held with \$100,000 in forged banknotes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Publisher of a weekly tabloid was arrested Wednesday for investigation on charges of possession of forged U.S. dollars, an official source said.

The source told the Jordan Times that Nayef Al Tawreh, publisher of the weekly Al Bilad newspaper, was allegedly in possession of forged \$100,000 when he was arrested.

The source declined to give any details about the investigation or the circumstances in which Mr. Tawreh was detained.

ABDUL MAJEED SHOMAN ARAB BANKER OF THE YEAR

NEW YORK—Each Year the Union of Arab Banks recognizes a distinguished member for service to the cause of Arab Banking with the honour "Arab Banker of The Year."

In the course of a long and distinguished career Mr Abdul Majeed Shoman has been awarded this privilege for 1996 in an official ceremony in New York attended by dignitaries from the Banking community all over the world.

Mr Shoman has been a tireless champion in mobilizing the Arab banking community to work together in becoming a catalyst for regional and global economic development.

Through his 60 years of service to the cause of Arab banking, he has helped guide the rise of Arab Banks to center-stage among the financial institutions of the world.

As chairman of the Arab Bank, Mr Shoman has presided over the rise of this institution into a leading force in building economic and banking relations between Arab countries and the rest of the world. Under his leadership, the Bank grew from a small business concern to an international conglomerate with a total balance sheet of 23 billion dollars.



French leaders protest monks' death in Algeria

PARIS (R) — More than 10,000 Parisians led by Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders gathered in the Eiffel Tower's shadow on Tuesday to pay tribute to seven French monks murdered by extremists in Algeria last week.

Solemn music by composer Gustav Mahler played as thousands laid out a carpet of white flowers. Banners read: "If we keep quiet, the earth will cry out."

Paris Archbishop Jean-Marie Lustiger, French chief Rabbi Joseph Siruk and Paris mosque head Dalil Boubakeur stood arms linked before the crowd which included Prime Minister Alain Juppe.

Sheikh Hadj Mamadou Ngansou Ntcha of the governing council of Muslims in France said: "We are terribly sad because what hap-

pened has no link with the teachings of Islam.

"Islam is a religion of peace," he said denouncing "those terrorists who have not ceased to carry out massacres."

The heads of all of France's main political parties were present except the extreme right-wing National Front, which said it was not invited.

Similar demonstrations took place in other main cities including Nice and Lyon.

The rally was called last week by Education Minister Francois Bayrou after the Algerian fundamentalist Armed Islamic Group (GIA) said it had cut the monks' throats after Paris refused to negotiate a release of prisoners.

Algeria has said the hunt for the kidnappers was continuing and it could not confirm or deny the monks were dead.

Foreign Minister Herve de Charette denied Paris had sent an envoy to visit the monks about 12 days ago, indicating the report was part of a misinformation campaign by the GIA.

"You have to be careful of manoeuvres and manipulation by the GIA, which naturally will not miss a chance to trouble the spirit of France," Mr. De Charette said on France Inter Radio.

The government has denied a report by a Trappist monk, Father Gerard, who said that an unnamed French government envoy had secretly visited the monks in their cave prison and brought them communion wafers as well as medicine.

However, a foreign affairs ministry spokesman, in a routine briefing, did not rule out that a non-governmental envoy could have visited the monks.



HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein Wednesday attends the graduation ceremony of new officers at the Royal Military College. At the end of the ceremony, Princess Alia presented the graduates with token gifts in appreciation of their service to the Jordan Armed Forces.

Court rejects challenge to its jurisdiction in case of Baqa'a attack

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The State Security Court on Wednesday ruled that it had jurisdiction in the case of five people accused of attacking the office of the Central Intelligence Department (CID) at Baqa'a refugee camp on Dec. 26, 1994.

Presiding Judge Yousef Faouri ordered the case to proceed as normal.

Three defence attorneys, two of them appointed by the court, had contested the case and demanded that their clients be tried at a civil court.

Prosecutor Captain Mahmoud Obaidat denied allegations by the attorneys that their clients were interrogated under duress.

The six defendants were expelled from courtroom twice for disrupting the three-hour session with slogans abusing the court and the prosecutor general.

Judge Yousef Faouri asked the defendants if they were guilty or not, they replied "You are the guilty one because you hindered god's religion and ruling."

The prosecution says that the group carried out the attack on the CID office to avenge the sentence passed against 11 Islamists by the

known as the "Arab Afghan" in which seven were sentenced to death.

They also carried the attack to avenge the arrest of their leader Ibrahim Mohammad Zein al Abedine three days before the attack was carried.

The remaining five defendants are: Tha'er Yousef Ghanem, 24, Shadi Jawdat Taha, 19, Yousef Amar, 22, Ghassan Mismar, 27, and Abdul Rahim Safarini, 23.

According to the prosecution, five of the defendants allegedly went to Baqa'a camp on Dec. 26, 1994, and shot the CID building with bullets from a machine gun, injured one person then fled the scene.

They are charged by the State Security prosecutor general with the assault and the intent to block the appropriate authorities (CID) from exercising its duties in accordance with the Constitution and the distribution of pamphlets slandering His Majesty King Hussein.

The charge sheet said that the suspects started their illegal activities in April of 1994 and plotted to carry out extremist attacks on tourist and security departments in the Kingdom.

Judge Faouri set June 25 and 26 to start hearing the prosecution witnesses.

Qatar reports arrests

DOHA (AP) — An unspecified number of people have been arrested following last Friday's apparent assassination attempt on Qatar's health minister, who escaped unhurt, the official Qatari News Agency reported.

In a late Monday report, it quoted an unidentified interior ministry official as saying that the motive of the attack on Al Saeed Al Khayarin had been "subversive." It did not elaborate.

The minister was parked at a petrol station in Doha, the Qatari capital, Friday when gunmen pulled up in another car and sprayed his car with more than 100 bullets.

But the state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported from Doha Monday that four gunmen in two vehicles pulled up at the petrol station and opened fire on Mr. Khayarin's car.

It said Mr. Khayarin's brother was also in the car, and was slightly injured by a flying piece of glass. The KUNA report could not be independently confirmed.

Following the attack, diplomatic sources said one of the assailants was a senior army officer.

Two groups condemn torture, disregard of human rights in Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's government has systematically harassed, arrested and tortured its opponents in a seven-year campaign to impose Islamic rule in one of Africa's most diverse countries, two human rights groups said Wednesday.

That drive has paralleled its pursuit of victory at all costs in a civil war in the south, including tacit acceptance of slavery and kidnapping by government-backed militias.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch-Africa said in separate reports.

The charges were the latest to confront Sudan's increasingly isolated government, which already is under U.N. diplomatic sanctions for reportedly giving aid and shelter to militants.

The reports come just two months after a U.N. special investigator accused Sudan of rampant human rights abuses, particularly in regions devastated by the 13-year civil war.

There was no immediate reaction from the Sudanese government.

In the past, Sudan has accused Amnesty International and other Western human rights groups of bias against Islam.

Sudan's government came to power in 1989 through a military coup and proceeded to ban political parties, trade unions and professional associations — traditional sources of opposition.

The judiciary, bureaucracy and military were purged, making way for cadres from the National Islamic Front. That movement, under the leadership of Hassan Tourabi, has provided the government ideological backing and a blueprint for an Islamic state.

Since the coup, the government has sought to ruthlessly squelch dissent by employing so-called "ghost houses," secret detention centres used for torture, said Amnesty and Human Rights Watch, which researched their reports independently.

The houses were even set up in the building of the official news agency and the former office of the Sudan bar association, the groups said.

In its 37-page report,

Amnesty said hundreds are being held without charge, some arrested, released and then re-arrested.

New York-based Human Rights Watch said in its 260-page report that prisoners at the houses were beaten with hoses and plastic pipes, sprayed with water hoses, locked in freight containers, burned with cigarettes and administered electric shocks.

In one gruesome episode, it said, interrogators dropped plastic from burning bags on the bare back of a prisoner.

Some of the worst violations occurred in the south, where rebels are fighting for more autonomy from a government traditionally dominated by Muslim Arabs.

Sudan, Africa's largest country, has 19 major ethnic groups and 115 distinct languages, making it one of the continent's most diverse nations.

Similar to a harsh U.N. report in March, both groups accused the government of indiscriminately bombing civilian areas in the south and carrying out a scorched-earth campaign in a struggle the Islamic government has termed a "Jihad," or holy war.

Human Rights Watch said government-backed militias have kidnapped women and children for use as slaves — a form of war booty.

Amnesty said the government has declared parts of the south a free-fire zone for raids by militias of Arab tribesmen or rebel breakaway factions armed by the government.

"Each of these forces has massacred unarmed men and women," Amnesty said.

Families are forced to buy children back, Amnesty said, at prices that vary from two cows to 25 cows, or the cash equivalent.

Human Rights Watch also criticised rebel forces of holding fellow rebels prisoner, confiscating food from civilians, looting and summary executions. Massacres are not uncommon, it said.

Egyptian editor's sentence suspended

CAIRO (AP) — A court has overturned a one-year prison sentence of a leading opposition journalist who had accused the son of Egypt's interior minister of running out on a bill.

But Magdi Hussein, editor of the Islamic-oriented Al Shaab newspaper, called the verdict a hollow victory and promised not to relent in his attacks on reputed government corruption.

The appeals court handed Mr. Hussein a three-year suspended prison sentence rather than the one-year sentence. It rejected, however, his plea to cancel a fine equivalent to \$4,500 and warned that he would be jailed if he repeated his offence.

Mr. Hussein was sentenced in January under a controversial 1995 press law that increased prison sentences from six weeks to up to five years and fines from just \$14 to as much as \$5,880 for publishing articles deemed false or inflammatory.

His case drew international attention and was seen as a test of

whether the law would succeed in silencing government critics.

Although human rights groups and some lawyers saw Tuesday's ruling as an attempt at a compromise, Mr. Hussein dismissed it as another move to silence Egypt's irreverent opposition press. He said he would appeal the \$4,500 fine to another court.

"The ruling means that for three years, prison is a sword suspended over my head," said Mr. Hussein, who did not show up for the court hearing.

"This is a political verdict and does not suit the Egyptian judicial system," Mr. Hussein added.

Tuesday's verdict said that if Mr. Hussein again violated the 1995 law, he would serve the one-year prison sentence plus the prison term decreed for the second offence.

Under the law, journalists can be jailed for insulting the president, foreign leaders, foreign representatives in Egypt, the courts, the army and any government

body or public official.

Mr. Hussein's original article did not name Interior Minister Hassan Al Afifi or his son, Alaa. But Mr. Alaa raised suit, saying he was the official's son accused of running out on the hotel bill.

The newspaper has indicated it will press on.

The banner headline of Al Shaab's Friday edition accused Alaa Al Afifi, his mother and several former ministers of taking over government land to construct an agricultural company.

The article then criticised Al Alaa's brother, Adel, asking where he reportedly obtained \$1.1 million to purchase a restaurant and millions more for six high-rise buildings.

The article was written by another writer at the newspaper but Mr. Hussein, as editor, could be sued as well.

"We will continue fighting the war against corruption and against the Al Afifi family, in particular," Mr. Hussein said.

Kurd groups agree to extend parliament term

ANKARA (R) — Rival Iraqi Kurdish groups have agreed to preserve their power-sharing assembly by seeking to extend its mandate for a further year, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a statement on Tuesday.

The assembly's term was initially set for three years, but was extended for a year in 1995 because of fighting between the two parties.

The PUK said it agreed on Monday with the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) "that the parliament should work to resolve the PUK-KDP dispute and prepare for

new parliamentary elections."

A KDP spokesman said the parliament, set up in 1992, must meet before the expiry of its term on June 4 if it is to maintain its legal status. The PUK and KDP hold 50 seats each and Christian Assyrians have five representatives in the assembly, which in the past met in a mosque in the neutral northern Iraqi village of Daraban.

The feud between the KDP and the PUK has cost about 3,000 lives and split northern Iraq into rival zones. But there have been no serious clashes for over a year.

The two parties failed to reach a peace agreement last month after they met separately with a U.S. delegation.

The PUK said Monday's talks, which took place at KDP headquarters in Salahuddin as a gesture of reconciliation, are seen as a prelude for further talks to resolve the internal Kurdish dispute and restore unity and peace to Iraqi Kurdistan.

Senior delegations from the two parties agreed to look at ways of expanding the parliament to include both independent delegates and those from other political groupings.

"This is deemed necessary to overcome the grid-lock that has beset the functioning of the parliament in the past," the PUK said.

The Kurdish groups began fighting in 1994 over control of the city of Erbil and the distribution of revenues from a makeshift oil trade at the Turkish border.

Northern Iraq has been protected from Baghdad by a Western powers air force based in southern Turkey since shortly after the Gulf war in 1991.

Trial of Coptic Christian girl who converted opens in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — A Christian family went to court Tuesday to win custody over their daughter, who they say was coerced into converting to Islam with the tacit help of police.

The case is potentially explosive in Egypt, where conversion to either Christianity or Islam is largely taboo.

Christians make up about 10 percent of Egypt's predominantly Muslim population of 60 million and have in the past claimed that their children were abducted and forced to convert to Islam. But this case is apparently the first to go to court.

The family of 17-year-old Irene Sadek Mikhail contends that her Muslim boyfriend, 34-year-old Ahmad Sanad, took advantage of their daughter's naivete.

They say he persuaded her to convert and that she has lived with his family for two months.

Morris Sadik, the Mikhail family's lawyer, concedes that the girl went to live with Mr. Sanad's family willingly.

But he said that under Egyptian law police should have brought her back to her parents since she is still a minor.

The court postponed the trial to July 9.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., LTD.
Reannounces The Invitation To Tender
No : 13F / 96

JPMC reannounces the invitation to bid No. 13F / 96 (for the supply of white wood).

The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, supply department, until 2:00 p.m. local time Sunday 9th June, 1996. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD 25 for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12:00 hours local time Thursday 13th June, 1996.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 Aladdin
15:30 NBA
16:30 Doc. — Pirates
17:00 News Flash
17:02 Children's Programme — Le Chat Perche
17:30 Varieties — Les Monds Ext. A Vous
19:00 News in French
19:15 Football match from the 7th Arab Cup Winner's Cup Championship
21:00 Star Trek
22:00 News in English
22:25 "The Blue Boy"
23:59 My New Wives

PRAYER TIMES

6:54 Fajr
12:27 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:25 Dhuhr
16:14 'Asr
19:39 Maghreb
21:12 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swiss Re. Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637676
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
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Armenian International Church Tel. 625258
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail during the weekend with temperatures rising slightly and winds northwesterly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 14/29
Aqaba 30/37
Djennin 13/33
Jordan Valley 18/36

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28° Aqaba 34° Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent. Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Wasam Hazin 748563
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 630115
Dr. Munther Al Oraili 779959
Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah 809425
Firas pharmacy 661912
Perdows pharmacy 773336
Al Asena pharmacy 623672
Nairwath pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmoukhi pharmacy 637660
Nairwath pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 647652

RBID:
Dr. Ghazi Tamneh 250800
Al Qudh pharmacy 865417

ZARQA:
Dr. Zuhair Al Qadi 916606
Khalil pharmacy 865417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 681111

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630241
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605809
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 815615
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/52
Khalidi Maternity, J. Arn 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Arn 643411/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 643262

Mafias, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Moshar Hospital 667279
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/57
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/25
Army, J. Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital 1325
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)904560
Al-Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990
RBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)755305
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72225
Jbn Al Nafes Hospital (02)317101
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (06)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 06-53200-5, where it should always be verified.

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 Moscow (RJ)
07:40 Beirut (RJ)
10:20 New Delhi (RJ)
11:20 Amsterdam, Detroit (add) (RJ)
12:00 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
12:05 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
13:00 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Athens (RJ)
13:25 London (RJ)
16:30 Laraca (RJ)
21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:00 Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
22:15 Jeddah (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:00 Athens (OA)
07:45 Beirut, London (BA)
08:45 Beirut (ME)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Riyadh (SV)
15:30 Algiers (AF)
16:00 Damascus, Dubai (EK)
22:18 Cairo (MS)
23:55 Damascus, Paris (AF)
04:00 Rome (AZ)

ROYAL WINGS (RW) Flights
28-30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
10:30 New Delhi (RJ)
18:40 Beirut (RJ)
11:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
11:20 Colombo (RJ)
17:20 London (RJ)
17:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:25 Athens (RJ)
20:10 Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
20:25 Rome (RJ)
20:45 Al Ain (RJ)
08:30 Laraca (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

13:40 Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Sharjah (AH)
17:00 Dubai (EK)
20:55 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:10 Beirut (RJ)
21:20 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Cairo (MS)
23:40 Amsterdam (KL)
06:25 London (JL)
03:40 Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
19-45 Tel Aviv (at QAIA) (RW)

HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in file per kg.

Apple 70/50
Banana 60/60
Banana (Mukammur) 52/50
Banana (imported) 70/50
Cabbage 120/140
Carrot 120/150
Cauliflower 230/140
Cucumber (large) 190/90
Cucumber (small) 230/140
Eggplant 240/170
Garlic 50/40
Garlic (green) 240/170
Lemon 60/40
Marrow (large) 170/120
Marrow (small) 240/170
Mulukhiyah 210/140
Onion (dry) 140/80
Orange 40/20
Peach 70/50
Pepper (hot) 220/150
Pepper (sweet) 270/140
Potato 230/140
String Bean 450/120
Tomato 250/170
Watermelon 170/150

TB 'under control' in Jordan — ministry

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—The Ministry of Health has said that tuberculosis (TB) in Jordan is under control and the annual cases recorded by the ministry are 400.

According to Khaled Abu Rumman, head of the ministry's TB and Respiratory Diseases Department, the department started recording increases in the number of TB cases in Jordan since 1991, after the return to the Kingdom from Kuwait of about 400,000 expatriates during the Gulf crisis and deteriorating living conditions in areas where many returnees had settled, said Dr. Abu Rumman who is also a member of the board of the Jordanian Society for Combating TB.

He said, however, that approximately 25 per cent of the total cases are non-Jordanians, primarily guest workers living in the Kingdom.

"Usually 90 per cent of the cases are discovered and 96 per cent of them are cured through medication," added Dr. Abu Rumman who noted that the cost of treating a single patient with TB is JD 100, of which JD 70 is covered by the Ministry of Health, and the society covers the remainder.

Comparing the TB cases in Jordan with others in neighbouring countries Dr. Abu Rumman said the situation in Jordan is better than in other areas of the Middle East in relation to the volume of population.

He said: "TB cases in Jordan now stand at the rate of one for every 100,000 inhabitants, but in Syria and Saudi Arabia the ratio is 40 cases, and in Yemen 300 for every 100,000 citizens."

Dr. Abu Rumman stressed that the concerned authorities are not relaxing their measures in the fight against the disease and the society and the ministry are closely monitoring the situation.

Asked about the reports that TB cases in the south, especially in the Maan area are higher in number than in other regions of Jordan, Dr. Abu Rumman said the cases there are not higher than those in the north and other parts.

Referring to the society's efforts to eradicate the disease, Dr. Abu Rumman said the society has recently increased monthly aid to TB patients from JD 10 to JD 20 each to enable the patients to reach the health centres and receive regular treatment.

"We are a voluntary society that tries to help the TB patients within our means and we hope to increase the aid to these patients in the future," he said. Referring to the situation worldwide, he said that TB annually kills three million people, and it is estimated that 10,000 others contract the disease each year, especially in the Third World countries. His Majesty King Hussein is honorary president of the society, which is chaired by Senator and former Prime Minister Zeid Rifai and has branches in Maan, Karak, Tafleh and Amman.

'Country's advances lead way to developing interactive learning centres'

By Samir Barhoum
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The success of Jordan's teleconferencing and technical information disbursement within the medical community throughout the Kingdom and abroad led the government to lay the foundations for developing long distance interactive learning centres, Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Al Saraiher says.

In an address to be delivered in Rome today at a two-day conference on "The creation of the Information Society in the Mediterranean countries," Mr. Saraiher says the creation of these centres, which he firmly believes will contribute to improving the quality of life of citizens, requires the development of the telecommunications sector in Jordan.

"In order for us to meet these conditions, we have laid the foundations necessary to facilitate the development of an information society by creating a telecommunications environment that is conducive to long-distance interactive learning programmes," the minister says in his address, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times Wednesday.

He adds in his address to the conference, organised by the Italian government and the European Commission, that universities and training

institutions in Jordan will participate in the system for the obvious reason of teleconferencing and exchanging information among experts in a speedy and timely manner.

"These learning centres will be linked to Europe... Their standards will be harmonised with those of Europe in order to connect with European learning centres so that training that can lead to diplomas can be enacted," says the minister, who left for Rome Wednesday.

He defines Jordan's goals in the telecommunications sectors as: to create a television network to connect the learning centres in the Kingdom in an interactive manner, to facilitate information exchange among teachers and among the students themselves, to provide greater training opportunities for teachers with little or no hardship to them, to create accessibility to teaching resources within the Kingdom regardless of location and to provide greater learning opportunities for the general populace.

"We are excited about the positive impact the access to long-distance learning will have on the quality of life in Jordan. Long distance opportunities will enable us to alleviate development barriers to a technologically sophisticated workforce and citizenry," he says, noting that access to distance learning will soften the effects

which wide economic disparities between geographic areas has on the skill level of teachers, quality of teaching materials, and consequently the ability of students.

He explains that the most qualified teachers usually compete for appointment in urban areas, which denies schools in rural and remote areas skilled teachers.

Mr. Saraiher continues that access to long-distance learning enhances the society's ability to be tolerant.

"While students from different regions obtain access to each other through interactive long distance courses, the segmentation of our society is lessened as a student from the south enjoys a discussion held with a student from the north... people from all over the Kingdom can meet and increase their understanding of each other through the miracle of advanced communication channels," he stresses.

In his speech, Mr. Saraiher familiarises participants in the parity with Jordan's development process, economic restructuring programme and privatisation drive.

According to the minister, Jordan's economic restructuring process, initiated in 1989 with the help of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to increase the participation of the private sector in the working of the Jordanian economy, has led Jordan to the privatisation of



Jamal Al Saraiher

many state-controlled enterprises.

"The telecommunications sector, which had been traditionally run as a state-owned monopoly, spearheads our economic advancement and modernisation drive," the minister says in his speech.

In paying tribute to the European Investment Bank, the Overseas Development Agency, the French Government and the European Union for their support of the Kingdom in carrying out the development process, the minister says: "Their assistance, providing technical and financial support for the restructuring process of the Jordanian telecommunications sector, made them active partners, not only in restructuring, but also in the National Investment Programme which ensued."

He says a European consulting firm did an evaluation of the performance of

the telecommunications sector three years ago and recommended privatising the sector in order to bring about the necessary modernisation of the basic telecommunications network and to fully integrate Jordan with the information superhighway.

To effectively meet present and future demands for sophisticated information transfer which includes distance learning, the minister said Jordan is expanding its basic telecommunications network through the National Investment Programme to double its present size 350,000 lines by the year 1998.

He says that the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in 1995 signed contracts at a total cost of \$150 million to increase telephony from 7 per cent to 11 per cent by the year 1998, adding that the Kingdom is currently replacing its analogue and old digital exchanges which were installed in the early and mid 1980s with new higher capacity exchanges that will be fully operative in the very near future.

Dwelling on the 1995 Telecommunications Law, he says it provides for transforming the TCC into a state-owned corporation towards the end of 1996. "Privatisation will occur two years later to facilitate the entry of full Public Switched Telephone Network competitor no later than Jan. 1, 1998," he adds.

Promising investors stable, up-to-date policies in the sector, Dr. Saraiher stressed that Jordan will ensure the separation of the operation from the regulation functions in order to avoid any conflict of interest that may happen and to signal to all competitors its intent to provide a level-playing field.

Prior to his departure Wednesday, Mr. Saraiher said the conference is considered part of building the Euro-Mediterranean partnership process which was adopted by the 1995 Barcelona Conference.

This conference, Mr. Saraiher said, stresses the need to build an advanced infrastructure in the fields of telecommunications, media, education and research.

"This conference has been conceived as one of the follow-up actions of the Barcelona conference which took place Nov. 27-28, 1995, gathering the 27 ministers to decide upon the creation of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership," a statement by the TCC said.

It said the conference involves the participation of ministers responsible for education, research and telecommunications in addition to entrepreneurs, university researchers and all operators who are somehow associated with the building up of the information society in the Mediterranean region.

Criminal Court clears 3 men on murder charges

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Wednesday acquitted three men charged with the murder of a 22-year-old student in the Yajouz area on March 29, 1995.

The families of Omar Mohammad Abu Sweilim, 22, Zakaria Ahmad Abu Sweilim, 16 and Ahmad Obeid Sweilim, 16, who were charged with the murder, announced the verdict.

Omar Abu Sweilim was charged with shooting and killing Mohammad Ghanem, a University of Applied Science and Technology student while he was on a ride with his fiancée Abeer Baker near the University of Jordan.

The remaining two defendants were charged with complicity in the murder.

The court said that the

prosecution did not present enough evidence to indict or link the men to the murder.

"The evidence produced by the prosecution is doubtful and could not be relied on," the court said.

According to the prosecution, the three defendants, pretending to be secret police, asked the couple for their identification cards.

The victim argued with them, and they told him that they were taking him to the police station.

They all rode in Mr. Ghanem's car, and he told them that he was heading to the police station, the prosecution said.

The first defendant, according to the prosecution, asked the victim to pull over but he refused.

"Omar Abu Sweilim drew his gun and fired twice in the air, to frighten

the victim, and when he did not stop, he shot him twice in the head," the prosecution charged.

The court also questioned the credibility of the main witness in the case, Ms. Baker, who according to the court "contradicted her testimonies in front of the prosecutor and in court."

"The witness (Ms. Baker) failed to give the right description of some of the witnesses and failed to give the right description of the accident scene," the court said.

The Criminal Court last month recalled Ms. Baker for new testimony after the court noted contradiction in her statements.

The verdict will automatically be reviewed by a higher court within 30 days.

Privatisation of hotel training college expected to compensate for industry shortages, says minister

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Management and administration of the Amman Hotel and Hotel Training College — the government-owned and operated hotel and restaurant training college — is slated to be signed over to the private sector in the coming week, pending the approval of the Cabinet, Minister of Tourism Saleh Irshaidat said on Tuesday.

It is hoped that an overhaul and upgrade of the Amman Hotel would begin to help compensate for the lack of hotel training facilities in Jordan, now emphasised by a substantial growth in tourism.

According to Mr. Irshaidat, the hotel will be owned and operated by a 50-50 joint venture company composed of the Jordan Investment Corporation and a conglomerate of hoteliers, banks and investment houses. Its start up capital will be JD1 million.

"The French government and the European Union will provide some financing for the school and will also provide some tools and equipment to the restaurant training facility," said Mr. Irshaidat. He estimated the contribution from the two parties at JD2 million.

Final details of the agreement were not immediately available, but the minister said they would probably be similar to those outlined last year which stipulated that the company would lease the facility outright from the Ministry of Tourism for 15-20 years.

The role of the Ministry of Tourism would be that of ownership, and it would continue to monitor the quality of education offered.

The Ministry of Education would retain responsibility for accreditation and curricula.

The college now accommodates approximately 435 students of two different academic levels; approximately 70 per cent are secondary (high school) students, and the remainder are at the college level.

Secondary education would be abolished at the institution after the private sector assumes responsibility for the facility, and be exchanged for various courses including waiting, driving and cooking.

The establishment would essentially offer a two-year course, with a hotel diploma, in a "community college for hotel training and education."

Enrollment would be approximately 240 students.

Private sector involvement in the hotel training facility was a recommendation of former Minister of

Tourism Abdul Ilah Khatib to foster the growth of the tourism industry in Jordan and improve the facility's training standards.

The Ministry of Tourism acquired ownership of the facility following a Cabinet decision early last summer, but left management and curricula within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education.

The same Cabinet decision that transferred ownership to the Ministry of Tourism also allowed for a private sector enterprise to take control of the establishment's management and education.

The hotel and college, which opened in 1981, sit on a 16-dunum plot of land in a residential area of Jabal Amman. The hotel's facilities include 55 rooms, a main restaurant, a terrace which can host up to 150 people, a swimming pool, tennis court and coffee

shop.

An on-going JD200,000 renovation of the facility which started in autumn 1994 would not have rectified the depressing state of the college and hotel, a Ministry of Education official had said at the time the Cabinet agreed that the private sector be allowed to manage it.

The facility has no bar, no jacuzzi, sauna or disco, he said at the time. "People want these things, and they are necessary for the success of the hotel. Obviously, we can't have all these things in a government institution, and this is just one of the reasons that the hotel should be handed over to the private sector."

The average salary of instructors at the facility was JD150, he said. "You cannot expect to hire top calibre staff and expect them to turn out qualified students for such a salary."

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Russia ready to grant Chechnya sovereignty within federation

MOSCOW (AFP) — Chechnya will be allowed to become a "sovereign" state within the Russian Federation, a draft treaty on the breakaway republic's status obtained by Interfax News Agency said Wednesday.

The treaty would grant Chechnya broad powers of self-rule but fall short of the total independence the Chechen rebels have demanded throughout their 17-month war against Russian forces. It was not yet clear exactly what sovereignty meant, or if this was in fact broad autonomy.

Interfax did not explain who drafted the document, but ITAR-TASS said it was the same as that which President Boris Yeltsin announced could be signed on June 30 or in early July after consultations with the Chechen people.

It was not clear whether the draft had been discussed at the peace talks in Moscow Monday which resulted in a ceasefire accord between Mr. Yeltsin and Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev.

Before the talks both sides had said they were deferring the thorny issue of Chechnya's status.

The draft treaty defined Chechnya as "a sovereign, democratic, law-based, social state within the Russian Federation."

Chechnya would have control over domestic policy, including law and order, the adoption of a republican constitution and republican laws, and the territory's budget and taxes.

The north Caucasus republic would also be able to sign separate accords with other subject regions of Russia and international treaties, provided they did not conflict with Russia's constitution and international obligations.

Russia would maintain control over foreign policy matters such as Russian defence and security, arms sales, federal transport and communications, according to the document.

Announcing a peace plan for Chechnya on March 31, Mr. Yeltsin said he was ready to grant Chechnya more autonomy than any other republic in the Russian Federation.

However, on a visit to Chechnya Tuesday Mr. Yeltsin again insisted that the republic was part of Russia.

The draft document quoted by Interfax said that both Russia and Chechnya agreed to "reject the use or threat of

force to solve any issues," on the basis of respect for the right to self-determination, equality and free will.

The authorities in Chechnya would have the right to organise alternative national service in the republic, including a special form of military service.

Chechnya, which has important oil installations and lies on the path of a major oil pipeline from the Caspian Sea, would also have control over its own natural resources, the document said.

Meanwhile, Moscow would maintain control over macro-economic policy, including monetary emissions, prices and customs regulations.

The document said Russia and Chechnya would jointly fulfill federal policy regarding Russia's territorial integrity and combating crime.

It also envisaged creating a free economic zone in Chechnya, whose infrastructure has been devastated by the war which erupted in December 1994.

Currently the oil-rich Republic of Tatarstan on the Volga has broad autonomy within Russia, with control over its natural resources.

Meanwhile two Russian soldiers died and a third was wounded Wednesday when a remote-controlled mine blasted an armoured personnel carrier in Grozny, a local Interior Ministry official in the Chechen capital said.

Amirbek Taromov told Reuters at the scene of the blast in the city centre that the mine had been deliberately detonated as the APC carrying Interior Ministry troops drove past. The attackers had not been found.

A ceasefire is due to come into force at midnight Friday. There were no civilian casualties in the mine explosion, although it happened close to a street market, just after 10 a.m. (0600 GMT).

By early afternoon, the wreckage had been cleared away leaving only traces of an explosion and a pool of spilt fuel.

ITAR-TASS news agency said another APC had been blown up in the same way several days ago in the same spot.

Earlier Wednesday, the Interior Ministry was quoted as saying its troops had come under attack 12 times in the previous 24 hours. Two had been wounded but none killed.



Former President John F. Kennedy and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy are shown after their arrival in Dallas in this television footage of scenes before the assassination of Kennedy. The recently unearthed long-lost footage offers intriguing new evidence on the case, experts said Tuesday (Reuters photo)

Kennedy assassination day film recovered

DALLAS (R) — Long-lost television footage of scenes before and after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy has been unearthed and offers intriguing new evidence on the case, experts said Tuesday.

The 45 minutes of black-and-white film has unique footage of Mr. Kennedy's killer and poignant images of the president and first lady Jacqueline Kennedy holding hands shortly before his death.

But it does not catch Mr. Kennedy's motorcade coming under fire as it drove through downtown Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, and does not find a "smoking gun" in the case that has spawned countless conspiracy theories.

"Does it point to a second gunman? Not that I know of," said Gary Mack, an expert on the Kennedy assassination and archivist at the Dallas County Historical Foundation. He said he first saw the film about 15 years ago but was unable to get a copy.

He took another look at it on Sunday after a Dallas woman came forward with the film clips, which had been buried under a house for years. "It doesn't significantly change history... But it does give extra insights and new details on what happened that day," Mr. Mack told Reuters.

The footage shows police taking several initial suspects and witnesses into custody and assassin Lee Harvey Oswald at the Dallas police station after his arrest. In another section, police and witnesses are seen running toward a nearby rail yard to search for an assassin immediately after the shooting.

The footage also shows Oswald's killer,

Jack Ruby, at a news conference with Oswald on the night of the assassination. Ruby shot Oswald to death two days later.

The Kennedys are seen holding hands in a rare public show of affection before stepping into the convertible that took them on the fateful ride through the city centre.

The 16 mm footage was secretly rescued from a wastebasket at a local TV station hours after the assassination by a news photographer named Roy Cooper, who kept the original and made a copy for his best friend, Eli Sturges.

They tried unsuccessfully to sell it secretly and the copy was stashed under Sturges' home for years. Mr. Sturges died in 1986 and Mr. Cooper died this year.

Mr. Sturges' stepdaughter, Janet Veazey, came forward with the film this month after the Dallas morning news ran a story about an independent federal board's search for pictures and records related to the assassination. She was 8 years old at the time of the assassination and told the newspaper she remembers being bored when her stepfather and his friend would close the curtains tight and watch the film.

A representative for the Assassination Records Review Board flew from Washington to Dallas last week to pick up the film.

While it does not solve the many mysteries of Kennedy's death, it is very important, Mr. Mack said. "There might be somebody visible who we don't recognise as being important now, but who future historians might identify further down the line."



Former President John F. Kennedy and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy are shown in the presidential limousine in the moments before Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963 in this recently unearthed television footage. The long-lost footage of scenes before and after the assassination of Kennedy offers intriguing new evidence on the case, experts said (Reuters photo)

N. Ireland peace poll could be divisive

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland votes Thursday in a poll that paves the way to crucial peace talks but the election may create more political problems than it solves.

Gerry Adams, head of the IRA's political arm Sinn Féin, reconfirmed Tuesday he will contest the election but boycott the 110-member assembly it creates.

He nevertheless issued a blunt demand for seats at Anglo-Irish sponsored peace talks set to start on June 10.

London and Dublin say Sinn Féin will be barred from the talks unless the IRA restores the ceasefire it ended in February.

"We are contesting the elections on the broad proposition that they provide an avenue, clear and direct and automatic, into all-party talks," Mr. Adams told reporters, dismissing the assembly as a British sop to its Unionist supporters.

Election campaigning has also bitterly divided the province's Protestant majority and left open the surprising possibility that the nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party could emerge as the single most popular party.

The election has become a contest for the leadership of the Protestants.

Ian Paisley, leader of the hardline Democratic Unionist Party, predicts his group will top the poll. A firebrand politician who has his own fundamentalist Protestant Church, Rev. Paisley is a legislator in the British and European Parliaments.

For 40 years he has been a booming voice of pro-Britishness, railing against the IRA and alleged plots by Dublin, London, and Washington to force Protestants to live under the yoke of a Catholic dominated all-Ireland republic.

Victory for Rev. Paisley would be a blow for David Trimble and his mainstream Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) which has hitherto been the chief voice of "Unionism".

Mr. Trimble, a law lecturer turned legislator, was elected UUP leader last year, swept to power by a party that wanted a shrewd tactician to combat Rev. Paisley's popularity and outwit suspected Anglo-Irish strategists to loosen London's grip on the province.



Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker and his wife Betty stand stone-faced at a press conference Tuesday where the governor announced his resignation after a jury found him guilty on two of seven counts in his fraud and conspiracy trial. The jury, after eight days of deliberation, also returned guilty verdicts for James McDougal and Susan McDougal (Reuters photo)

Whitewater trial convictions of partners put pressure on Clinton

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (R) — President Bill Clinton is on the defensive from Republican attacks after two former business partners and his successor as Arkansas governor were convicted on fraud charges Tuesday.

A Little Rock jury returned a string of guilty verdicts against James and Susan McDougal, who were Clinton's partners in the failed Whitewater real estate venture. James McDougal was convicted on 18 of 19 counts and his former wife on all four against her.

The jurors also found Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker guilty on two of seven counts of fraud for his role in an alleged \$3 million conspiracy to defraud two federally insured financial institutions. Mr. Tucker resigned hours after the verdict came in.

Mr. Clinton had testified on videotape on the defendants' behalf and the convictions could hurt his reelection bid by bringing renewed attacks, as well as deeper probes into his personal and political finances.

But Mr. Clinton got support from one juror in the trial who said late Tuesday that the president was "magnificent" and that the verdicts were based on overwhelming documentary evidence against the three defendants.

Colin Capp said he and the other jury members were persuaded that Mr. Clinton had nothing to do with any of the illegal loans at the heart of the case, and that they did not believe the testimony of star prosecution witness David Hale.

"President Clinton was magnificent in his presentation. He cleared up a lot of things for us. He just added to the lack of credibility that we had for David Hale," Mr. Capp told Reuters.

During the trial, the president's word was against that of Mr. Hale, a former Little Rock investment banker who alleged that Mr. Clinton, then state governor, pressured him to give Susan McDougal a fraudulent \$300,000 loan in 1986.

Both James and Susan McDougal were convicted on the four counts linked to the \$300,000 loan, which was never repaid. Next month suburban Little Rock bankers Herby Branscum and Robert Hill go on trial for allegedly diverting bank funds to Mr. Clinton's 1990 campaign for state governor. Mr. Clinton has also been subpoenaed to testify in that trial.

Republican critics lined up to take full political advantage of the verdicts.

"These convictions indicate the seriousness and depth of the Whitewater tragedy," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican and chairman of the Senate Banking Committee and a fierce opponent of the president.

James Leach, chairman of the House Banking Committee, struck a similar tone. "I have never suggested a legal context needed to be applied to the president, but in terms of the ethical aspects of this whole Whitewater circumstance, it is going to be very serious for him," Mr. Leach told CNN.

Mr. Clinton has not been charged with any crime in the ongoing Whitewater probe and few Americans understand, or appreciate, the complex paper chain of his former partners' fraudulent business deals.

But political analysts say the verdicts could leave Americans with the impression he was involved in something shady.

That Mr. Clinton's videotaped testimony did not help acquit his Whitewater partners makes it worse for the president, especially if Republicans can get hold of the tape and use it in campaign ads.

And the White House moved quickly to minimise the political fall-out of what has become a highly charged trial and investigation.

"There was one thing everyone involved with this trial — prosecutors and defence — could agree on: The president had nothing to do with the allegations that were the subject of the trial," White House special counsel Mark Fabiani said in a statement released soon after the verdict.

Meanwhile President Clinton's lawyer Tuesday tried to extricate Mr. Clinton from a political firestorm that blew up over the president's efforts to delay a sexual harassment lawsuit against him until he leaves office.

Attorney Robert Bennett said in a new legal brief filed with the Supreme Court that Mr. Clinton was not attempting to delay the lawsuit through use of the 1940 Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, which protects active-duty military personnel from having to defend themselves in civil suits.

"The president does not rely on, or claim any relief under, the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940," Mr. Bennett said in a footnote to his new brief.

Mr. Bennett's reference to the law in an earlier filing to the nation's highest court — and his apparent suggestion Mr. Clinton was on active military duty through his position as commander-in-chief — energised Republican efforts to unseat the Democratic president in the November election.

Republicans quickly put together a 30-second television ad making fun of Mr. Clinton, who had evaded the Vietnam War draft.

"Bill Clinton — he's really something. He's now trying to avoid a sexual harassment lawsuit claiming he is on active military service," the announcer declares in the Republican advertisement, as the tune "You're In The Army Now" plays in the background.

On Memorial Day Monday, five recipients of the highest U.S. honour for combat gallantry, the Medal of Honour, attacked the president for the position and urged him to drop the claim.

Arkansas state employee Paula Jones has alleged that Mr. Clinton made "reckless" and "persistent" sexual advances to her in 1991 while he was Arkansas governor. She is seeking \$700,000 in damages.

The president obtained a ruling that the suit would not go forward until after he left office, but an appeals court ruled in January that the case should proceed to trial. Mr. Clinton is appealing that ruling to the Supreme Court.

Malaysian ministry raps sex-shy teachers

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's Education Ministry has rapped teachers for shying away from teaching sex education and AIDS awareness in schools, reports said Wednesday.

Secretary-General Wan Zahid Mohd Nordin said his ministry was conducting a nationwide study on why some teachers were shirking such tasks. "We do not want to speculate on whether these teachers lack knowledge, but we have informed them to brief students on these topics," Mr. Wan Zahid was quoted saying in southern Johore state by the Star daily. He said depending on the results of the survey, the ministry might force teachers to undergo programmes on sex education and acquired immuno-deficiency syndrome (Aids). "They should not feel conservative or feel morally restrained to impart such knowledge," Mr. Wan Zahid said, warning that they were morally responsible for alerting students on the dangers of unsafe sex. "Treat it like another civic education," he urged teachers. Talking about sexual matters is largely taboo in predominantly-muslim Malaysia.

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Chinese dissident detained after petition

BEIJING (R) — Police have detained democracy activist Wei Jingsheng and other political prisoners.

"We call for the immediate unconditional release of Wei Jingsheng... along with all others detained for political and religious crimes," said the petition, a copy of which was sent to news agencies Wednesday by the U.S.-based pressure group Human Rights in China.

Mr. Wang had been under constant surveillance recently, Liu Qing of human rights in China said by telephone from New York.

Mr. Wang, a veteran dissident, was jailed for two years for his role in the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations.

He was detained again briefly last Dec. 15, two days after a Beijing court convicted Wei Jingsheng, regarded as the father of China's tiny democracy movement, of plotting to overthrow the state.

In his petition, Mr. Wang called on the government to reverse its condemnation of the 1989 student movement as a "Counter-revolutionary rebellion" and to punish all those involved in the crackdown.

Mr. Wang and six other activists sent a signed petition to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on May 27, demanding the release of veteran pro-

democracy activist Wei Jingsheng and other political prisoners.

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Actor Keanu Reeves hurt in motorcycle crash

Los Angeles (R) — Actor Keanu Reeves, was in the hospital Tuesday with minor injuries after a motorcycle crash, a local TV station reported.

KCBS-TV said the 31-year-old star of the box-office blockbuster Speed was in good condition after surgery following Monday's accident. There was no immediate comment from the Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Centre.

His agent Brooke Ensign was quoted as saying Reeves was fine. "All I really know is he collided with a car and had an injury. I believe, to part of his leg, maybe an ankle," she said. The TV station said he was expected to be discharged soon.

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North Korean farmers queue for rice and vegetable oil at Unpa County, 150 kilometres south of Pyongyang in North Korea (Reuters photo)

Food crisis in N. Korea prompts aid appeal

SEOUL (R) — A U.S. congressman just back from North Korea said Wednesday that Pyongyang's top priority was coping with a food crisis that has affected millions of people and prompted a fresh call for aid to stave off famine.

"Frankly, I was struck by the evidence of the seriousness of their situation and their sincere desire for help in dealing with it," Bill Richardson told a news conference in Seoul.

In Beijing, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) appealed for \$5.25 million in aid to North Korea to prevent famine and help 130,000 victims in the worst floods in living memory that swept North Korea last July and August.

Without aid the situation in North Korea could deteriorate rapidly and result in famine, said IFRC Secretary-General George Weber, also just back from visiting the hermit state.

The IFRC issued the fresh appeal after its previous call for aid in March met with a poor response, Mr. Weber said.

Congressman Richardson, a New Mexico Democrat, said he believed North Koreans were preoccupied with the food crisis.

"This food problem now is of such overwhelming importance to North Korean officials that I was left with the impression they would find it difficult, if not impossible, to focus on other issues until they have found a way to deal with this crisis," he said.

Mr. Richardson led the



International Red Cross Federation Secretary-General George Weber overlooks a destroyed bridge at Kanganri, Unpa County, 150 kilometres south of Pyongyang in North Korea. The International Federation of the Red Cross appealed Wednesday for \$5.25 million in aid for North Korea to avert famine and assist 130,000 victims of devastating floods last year (Reuters photo)

first U.S. delegation to North Korea since U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean head of state Kim Young-Sam unveiled a proposal last month for four-nation peace talks, which would also include China.

"I was very strong in stressing the importance of the four-party talks in the briefing," said Mr. Richardson.

"They were non-committal in their response but I am hopeful that the non-committal response might lead to acceptance in the future," he said.

North Korea has so far made no formal response to

the proposal for talks to replace with a peace treaty an armistice accord that ended the 1950-53 Korean War. But the fact it has not summarily rejected the plan has stirred some optimism.

Mr. Richardson sidestepped the question on whether North Korea was linking the peace talks to food aid. Washington, along with its allies Japan and South Korea, are holding off on aid, partly as a result of South Korean concerns it may end up helping the northern military.

A North Korean Air Force pilot who defected to South Korea last week said Tuesday North Korea leader

Kim Jong-il had drawn up a war plan to capture South Korea within a week and that pilots were training for a lightning strike.

But defence experts in South Korea questioned whether comments by Li Chol-su, 30, a North Korean Air Force captain, should be taken at face value.

The U.S. Defence Department was also sceptical, saying the military readiness of North Korea's large army was at its lowest point.

South Korean officials added that the defector's warning did not change Seoul's resolve to mend ties with its rival.

Communists play key role in shaping Indian policy

NEW DELHI (R) — Senior Communist leaders were roped in by India's Prime Minister-Designate H.D. Deve Gowda Wednesday to help draft a joint economic and political programme for his United Front alliance government, politicians said.

Alliance leaders said the heads of two main Communist parties were locked in a crucial meeting with Mr. Deve Gowda and other United Front allies, a day after President Shankar Dayal Sharma invited the United Front leader to form a new government on June 1.

While the formerly pro-Soviet Communist Party of India (CPI) was likely to accept a role in Mr. Deve Gowda's government, the main Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) would support it from the outside, politicians said.

CPI-M General Secretary Harkishan Singh Surjeet told reporters the United Front's policy programme would be ready by May 31.

He ruled out any consultations with the Congress Party of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao in framing the Front's policies. The new government, asked by Mr. Sharma to prove a majority in parliament by June 12, can win a vote of confidence only with Congress support.

Mr. Deve Gowda met Mr. Rao earlier Wednesday, but he described the meeting as "a courtesy call."

The CPI-M sees the Congress as its main foe in the states of Kerala and West Bengal where it heads left front governments.

"The Congress has its own compulsions to support us," he said, but did not



India's prime minister designate, Haradanahly Dodde Deve Gowda (centre), talks to reporters after a meeting with leaders of the 13-party alliance of regional, centrist and left-wing parties, in New Delhi Wednesday. Mr. Gowda has been asked by the president to form a new government which will be sworn in on June 1 after the Hindu nationalist government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee resigned Tuesday (Reuters photo)

elaborate.

"Tell me what compromises have we made?" Mr. Surjeet said in response to

recent reports that Mr. Rao had set several conditions, including continued support for his economic reforms programme, to bail out Mr. Deve Gowda in parliament.

The United Front and Congress together control a majority in a hung parliament following inconclusive general elections in April and May.

The rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which emerged as the largest group with 160 deputies in the current 535-strong Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, relinquished power Tuesday

ahead of a parliamentary vote of confidence it was bound to lose.

Mr. Sharma swore in BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee as prime minister on May 16.

Front leaders were confident of Mr. Deve Gowda's chances of providing a stable government.

"We are all responsible for this experiment," Andhra Pradesh state Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu told reporters. "We want to make it a success."

Front sources said there were some problems over the formation of Mr. Deve Gowda's cabinet as the alliance's 13 disparate groups of leftists, lower caste Hindus and regional leaders

jockeyed for key posts.

Among the names doing the rounds for the finance minister's job was that of P. Chidambaram, the staunchly pro-reform former commerce minister in Mr. Rao's cabinet before he left the party after differences over an electoral alliance in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

His name was being opposed by Communists and Congress leaders who see him as a "renegade."

"Mr. Deve Gowda will be talking to lots of people about the formation of a cabinet," Jaipal Reddy, spokesman for the United Front alliance, said. "He's keeping his cards close to his chest, as he should."

NATO to take lead in European defence

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO, written off by some as a cold war relic a few years ago, intends to set the seal next week on its recent emergence as the central organisation shaping Europe's future defence and security.

NATO foreign ministers meeting in Berlin Monday will give broad approval to plans for more flexible military cooperation which would allow European nations a far greater role within the U.S.-led alliance.

"The Berlin meeting opens a new era for NATO. This is the start of a much wider reform without which enlargement and new types of missions would not be possible," said a senior alliance source.

The critical issue of how radical an overhaul of the alliance's command structure should be undertaken to create a separate European Security and Defence Identity (ESDI) has been left for another day, NATO sources said.

But they said broad agreement to allow European nations to use NATO's largely U.S.-owned satellites and communications equipment to undertake missions in which the Americans do not wish to take part would be a landmark event from which more reform would flow.

"The agreement on a new concept of more flexible command structures that we are expected to reach in Berlin, is a milestone in the history of NATO," alliance Secretary-General Javier Solana wrote this week in the German daily Die Welt.

"The structural reform... takes us closer to the European security and defence identity that we have been discussing for so long."

Dole calls for abolishing parole for violent criminals

AURORA, Colo. (R) — Charging that President Bill Clinton has talked tough but acted weak in fighting crime, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole called Tuesday for an end of parole for violent criminals and life in prison for child pornographers after three convictions.

Standing before a sombre black granite memorial to slain police officers in this Denver suburb, the presumptive Republican nominee said the U.S. Constitution should be amended to give crime victims new rights.

He said everyone charged with a sexual assault should be tested for the AIDS virus, called for periodic drug testing of prisoners and suspects and said juveniles charged with violent crimes should be prosecuted as adults.

"The liberal view is that crime and violence are not so much punishable offences as treatable disorders. But the liberal philosophy is not the solution to our crime problem. In fact, it's one of the sources of the problem," Sen. Dole told about 100 people who braved the rain.

Surrounded by local police and the wife of a slain officer, Sen. Dole opened his attack on the White House by calling it a "disgrace" that top Clinton advisor Dick Morris had conducted polling for the legal defence team of an accused rapist.

"If he had appointed people serious about fighting crime he (Clinton) wouldn't need a high-priced PR man to help with the issue," Sen. Dole said. He took another swipe at Mr. Clinton for appointing what he called liberal judges.

Sen. Dole began a four-day campaign swing that will also take him to vote-rich California for the first time since he won

that state's primary in late March.

Tough talk about crime is an annual campaign ritual and Republicans have traditionally had more success than Democrats in painting themselves as strongest on the issue. But Mr. Clinton has taken pains to highlight his anti-crime record and made moves such as signing an anti-terrorism bill limiting death row appeals that his campaign hopes will take some of the sting out of Sen. Dole's attacks.

Even before Sen. Dole spoke, the Clinton campaign sent reporters a news release saying the sheriff who introduced the Republican candidate had written to Congress supporting a Clinton plan to put more police on the beat.

In recent days Mr. Clinton has taken part in a Capitol rally to honour law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, announced a total of more than \$600 million in new grants to help local police forces hire more officers and signed the Republican-backed Megan's Law requiring local officials be warned when dangerous sex offenders move to their community.

From Colorado, Sen. Dole flies to California, with its treasure chest of 54 electoral votes, for a rally with Republican Gov. Pete Wilson.

Mr. Clinton, who won California in 1992, has made it almost a second home while in the White House, visiting dozens of times.

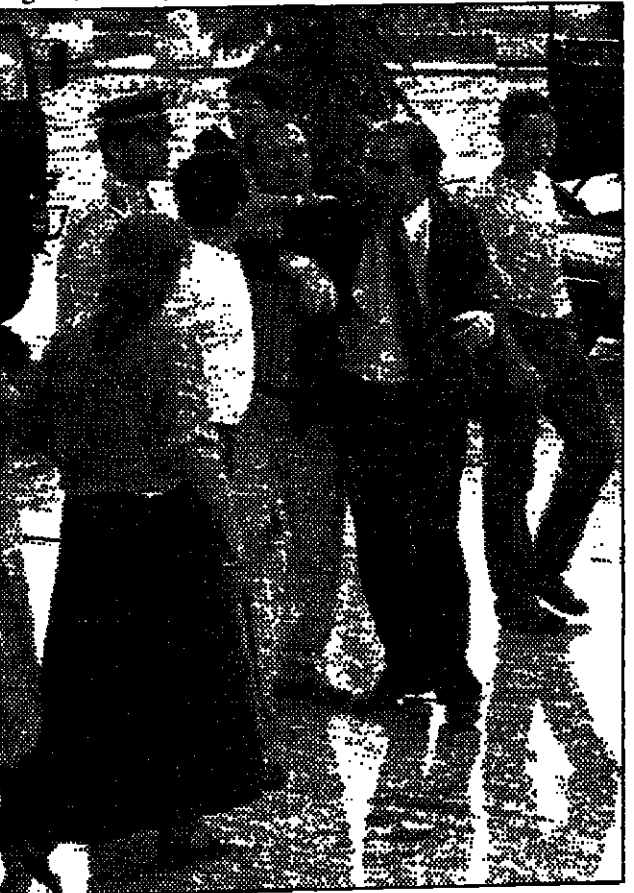
He leads Sen. Dole in California polls by as much as 20 per cent.

But the Dole campaign has served notice it does not intend to write off the state, announcing Monday that Ken Khachigian, a top Republican strategist and former speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan, would become a senior adviser.

OSCE raps Albania over poll failures

VIENNA (R) — Albanian general elections held over the weekend at times fell short of legal standards and government cooperation was insufficient, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said Wednesday.

In a post-election statement released in Vienna, the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) said: "The observers noted with regret that



Albanian plainclothes policemen use force to remove Skender Gjinushi (2nd right), leader of Albania's Socialist Democratic Party from the street during clashes between opposition groups and riot police on Tuesday's central Skanderbeg Square. Opposition parties were protesting against the alleged manipulation of Sunday's general elections (Reuters photo)

in many instances the implementation of the law failed to meet its own criteria."

The preliminary statement stopped short of condemning Sunday's poll as fraudulent but it highlighted several shortcomings in the way Albania's third free general elections were conducted.

A final report will be issued in two weeks. An OSCE spokeswoman told Reuters Swiss Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman Flavio Cotti would make a statement later Wednesday.

The ODIHR said its observers had noted several incidents of ballot sheet and counting irregularities and intimidation of voters.

"The observers considered that the presence of armed individuals and unidentified persons inside polling stations did have an intimidating effect on voters and polling commission officials," the ODIHR said.

No official results have been released but President Sali Berisha's ruling Democratic Party has claimed a landslide victory over the opposition socialists, reformed heirs to the communists.

The ODIHR said its representatives were in Albania from late April to observe the run-up to the May 26 poll and meet with government and non-government organisations.

"However, the ODIHR regrets that the level of official cooperation offered to its representatives was of such a limited nature," the statement said.

Observers representing 11 OSCE states formed 23 teams and visited a representative sample of 300 polling stations on election day, the ODIHR said.

Meanwhile a Socialist Party militant was killed in an incident only hours after protests by opposition parties, claiming weekend elections were unfair, turned violent, a Socialist Party spokesman said Wednesday.

Eduard Kullolli, 25, was killed Tuesday after a stranger approached him in a cafe and invited him outside, said Kastriot Islami.

He had previously taken part in a demonstration by around 100 party members at Socialist Party headquarters. Mr. Kullolli had said "secret police" were following him for several days, Mr. Islami said.

Mr. Islami did not accuse the ruling Democratic Party of murdering Mr. Kullolli, but said he did not rule out the possibility of its involvement.

He did not speculate on a possible motivation for the killing.

According to the most recent partial results, the Democratic Party has won 94 of 140 seats in parliament and the Socialist Party will hold on to five or six seats.



Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Bob Dole (centre) gestures during a crime speech at the Aurora Justice Centre Tuesday in Aurora, Colorado. Arapahoe County sheriff Pat Sullivan (left) holds an umbrella over Sen. Dole's head to protect him from the rain which fell during Sen. Dole's speech (Reuters photo)

Jordan Times

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Push for cause of peace

IN WHAT many see as a push for the cause of peace in the Middle East, Israeli voters appeared to have given Prime Minister Shimon Peres the mandate to push ahead with the peace process, with early projections showing Peres heading towards winning the premiership. Though official results were not out by late Wednesday, exit polls indicated that Peres would continue to hold the most important political position in Israel. That could be an important omen for the cause of peace in the region.

Peres' win in the election gives him the legitimacy as an Israeli leader who was directly elected by the people and who thus has the power to take difficult decisions concerning the future of his country. Such a clear mandate should remove any complexes Peres might have had about having never served in Israel's army or been directly elected to office. It should also discredit all those who question his leadership on these grounds.

Peres now has the responsibility of leading his country into an era of peace when all peoples of the region will be able to live in peace and stability. There is no question about the difficulty of the final status negotiations with the Palestinians and the talks with Syria and Lebanon. But the battle for peace is a battle worth waging and the compromises required for its success are ones that the Israeli prime minister should not shy away from making.

Israel should now proceed towards implementing its deals with the Palestinians. The sooner Israel does that the better it is for the region and for itself. But permanent peace with the Palestinians will mean an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem, an acceptable solution to the refugee problem and a dismantling of the settlements, which are a source for conflict and instability in the West Bank and Gaza. At the same time, Peres can now move to achieve peace with Syria and Lebanon on the basis of the land-for-peace formula and assurances for the security of Israel and its neighbours.

The ability of Peres to speed up the peace process and take the hard decisions that the process would require obviously depends on the composition of the new Knesset and the size of support his Labour Party would have in the legislative. But indications are that the Labour would be able to form a coalition government where the supporters of peace would have the bigger say. That should help Peres push through with his agenda despite the opposition he will face from right-wing forces in the country and the Knesset.

If Peres moves in the direction of peace, he will enjoy the support of not only the United States, which has thrown its weight and prestige behind him in the elections, but also of Arab countries that have invested in the peace process. Jordan is sure to support Peres in his efforts to bring about permanent peace to the region. The Kingdom signed the peace treaty with Israel as part of an effort to reach a comprehensive settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. It will thus work side by side with the new Labour-led Israeli government to realise that goal which is the only way of ensuring the future stability and prosperity of the whole area.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

ONE CANNOT make a real assessment of the government's performance 100 days after its inception, but on the whole it was positive especially at the economic level, said Faded Al Faneh, a writer for Al Ra'i daily, Wednesday. Contrary to what many people thought about the government's intentions of straining Jordan's relations with Baghdad, the Kabarti government has refrained from such practice, did not stop its exports to Iraq and continued to benefit from Iraq's oil sold to Jordan at half price, said the writer. Had the government acted otherwise, he said, it would have sacrificed the Kingdom's real interests in exchange for imaginary interests. Indeed, rebuffs and negative attitudes to the present government's stands with regard to Israel, the Palestine authority, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait and the so-called Iraqi opposition should prompt Mr. Kabarti to reexamine and reassess the whole Arab situation, and reexamine Jordan's relations with Iraq, argued the writer. He said that Jordan has many interests with Iraq, which it needs to protect and, in fact, Jordan's relations with Baghdad over the past 15 years did not only safeguard the Kingdom's national interests but also gave the Kingdom its present regional and international political weight.

The View from Academia

As summer motoring rhythm escalates, more vigilance is needed

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

SUMMER HAS come and, as it gains momentum, life on our roads becomes far busier and faster than during other seasons. The days are longer, and the evenings stretch endlessly. Day chores and night activities multiply. There are more outings, visits, gatherings, meetings, trips, unions, reunions, weddings, happy occasions of sorts, funerals, etc. in summer time than at any other time of the year. We are fast becoming a highly ritualistic culture, and our ties and rituals are particularly visible in summer time.

As there is more road use, there is, naturally, more risk and danger. For some reason also (the effect of the heat, the festive mood, frustration, and so forth) idiosyncratic road behaviour and bad driving habits increase noticeably. As the case is in other parts of the globe, our motorists are most dangerous when they are either most happy or most unhappy. Judging from what we see around us, the vast majority of our road users falls sharply into one or the other category in the summer; there is very little middle ground.

The rhythm of life in summer, then, changes dramatically, and we need to be aware (or reminded) of such change to guard against its inevitable negative implications. To this end, we expect the various public and private establishments or groups in our society which are directly or indirectly involved in road safety (i.e. the traffic administration, the municipality of Amman, the Jordanian Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents, etc.) to play a more visible role, and a more creative and aggressive strategy, in making road users conscious of such a change in rhythm.

The shift (both psychological and mental) we road users generally have to make when we plunge into the busy and fast summer life is much like (or should be much like) that which a motorist cruising at a speed of 65 miles per hour has to make when he comes to a 30-mile speed zone.

There is much to deal with, of course, but two types of motorists have to be kept in an eye on closely — namely, fellow expatriate motorists, and rental-car users. By expatriate motorists, we mean fellow Jordanians working in neighbouring countries (primarily the Gulf region) who

come to spend the summer vacation with their families and friends. By rental-car users, we mean not only (even not necessarily) motorists from foreign countries but also Jordanians who rent cars for all intents and purposes.

The two types of motorists have two things in common: first, for reasons which we understand, they are heavy road users; second, for reasons we do not understand, they are always in a hurry. When you look in the mirror, suddenly made conscious that a dashing vehicle has almost hit your back bumper or is blinking its lights maniacally behind you at night, chances are (in nine cases out of ten) it is either a rental car or that of a fellow expatriate.

Why they are always in a hurry beats me, though the reasons some of us give in our informal chats are not far from the truth. The expatriates are always in a hurry, we are told, a) because the sight of home is exciting, elevating, exhilarating and intoxicating; b) because some of them like to draw attention to their posh cars beside of which many of ours (due to the customs fees which never seem to want to decrease) are too old, used, over-used, ugly, and inferior; c) because this is the way they drive in their countries of residence.

As for rental car users, some of them are fellow expatriates, and they therefore speed for the reasons just mentioned. Many of them, however, are Jordanians. Why do they drive differently then? Rumour has it that they drive speedily because: a) many of them do not have cars of their own to drive, and they rent cars for the mere pleasure of driving; b) some have just obtained the driver's licence and they want to demonstrate their driving skills to buddies or fellow motorists and pedestrians who should be impressed; c) the rented cars are, obviously, not their own vehicles and therefore why should they slow down when they come to a bump and why should they care if the car gets wrecked?

More seriously, let me assert the following two points. With regard to the expatriate motorists, I believe that much of their motoring behaviour is determined by the rhythm of motoring they have been used to. Motorists drive differently in different countries. Believe it or not,

even though most drivers in Jordan do not obey traffic rules and signs as faithfully as we would want them to, they have created a coherent rhythm of motoring which if you come to know, on the basis of experience, you may drive fairly safely by. If you do not, there may be trouble.

Most expatriate motorists do not know the rhythm. With respect to Jordanians driving rental cars, the most important factor behind the abuse of the motoring experience stems from the novelty of the experience itself. For many years, Jordanians were not allowed to drive rental cars. Recently, they have been. But even though access to rental cars is within the reach of many Jordanians (financially, that is) such access has not coincided with the emergence of rental car ethics. The car is not mine, so why should I care?

Clearly, expatriate motorists have to make it a priority before and while they use Jordanian roads to free themselves from the country-of-residence rhythm and attempt to understand and drive in accordance with the Jordanian rhythm. The traffic administration can make life easier by distributing leaflets containing driving tips to expatriate motorists at border entry points.

The rental car agencies, in cooperation with various concerned parties, can also try to teach the users how to use and not abuse rental cars. After all, if one does not care about the vehicle, one should care about his own safety and that of other road users.

In addition to all these, and to make sure that we do not leave everything to the conscience or consciousness of our motorists, we need more police visibility and presence. We want to see more traffic police on the road — moving, patrolling, watching, assisting, directing, instructing, reprimanding and not just standing in limited, highly-predictable crossings or ticketing indiscriminately.

If we want to avert road disasters before they happen (and they usually increase in the summer), we need to give some serious thought to correct citizen behaviour and keep on patrolling.

Goals to make the common world more liveable

By J. Brian Atwood

WASHINGTON — At the recent annual meeting of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, in Paris, the world's donor nations adopted a far-reaching set of goals for the next two decades. If they are achieved, a world that is likely to have at least 2 billion more inhabitants by the year 2015 will be infinitely more liveable.

The world's development professionals based their ambitious objectives on the success of foreign aid over the past 50 years. If it was possible to expand the global economy tenfold, raise literacy rates by a third, create the "green revolution" to feed millions, double the percentage of people with access to clean drinking water, lower infant mortality by half and increase the average age of human beings from 44

years to 62, why not strive for similar improvements in the future?

The new goals link the economic and foreign policy interests of the industrial nations to the compelling needs of the developing world. They call for a one-half reduction in extreme poverty by increasing the living standards of the approximately 1.3 billion people who live on one dollar a day or less.

Universal primary school education, family planning services for all who want them, the empowerment of women through education and equal access to political and economic resources, and the implementation of strategies for environmental sustainability are goals previously adopted at U.N. conferences. Their realisation will dramatically increase the productive capacity of societies while preserving vital natural

resources. This will in turn create new markets and contribute to global stability by preventing crisis.

"Increased prosperity in the developing countries demonstrably expands markets for the goods and services of the industrialised countries," the report asserts, with much supportive evidence. The new consumers are the middle classes of the emerging markets that benefited so much from the development efforts of the last generation. The question is whether anyone is our resource-strapped capital cities is listening.

It is not enough for development ministers to agree on goals for the future. Executives, parliamentarians, journalists and citizens will have to focus more clearly on these issues as well. Budget battles and increased spending for crises have forced reductions of about eight per cent in worldwide official development assistance in each of the past two calendar years.

The United States, now in the midst of a thus far successful "structural adjustment" of its deficit-plagued economy, may be poised to shake off its donor fatigue.

The U.S. deficit has been reduced by half, and at 2.3 per cent of GDP in 1995 is one of the lowest in the industrial world. The economy is growing steadily, inflation remains under control and employment is at an enviable 5.5 per cent. Equally important, Americans are beginning to realise that success in the international trade sector has helped produce this healthy state.

The trade sector accounts for only 26 per cent of U.S. GDP, but its size has doubled in a decade, with exports increasing rapidly

and accounting for many of the new high-wage jobs in the U.S. economy. Businesses are anxious to exploit the dynamic markets of the developing world, where most of America's export growth is occurring.

At a time when international engagement through an effective foreign assistance programme could open doors and create demand for exports, the United States has reduced its programme significantly. In the last decade the U.S. development assistance budget has been cut by half, in real terms.

Two years ago America fell behind Japan as the world's largest donor in absolute terms. France and Germany are close to matching the total dollar amounts contributed by the United States, while they continue to contribute a significantly larger portion of

their countries' overall GNP.

If America is to be successful in expanding its trade sector, it must expand its investment to develop new markets as it has done so well in the past 50 years. Japan and countries like France and Germany are to be commended for their commitment to global economic growth and stability, but they are also serving their national interests.

With the Marshall Plan, the United States pioneered the notion that a nation could do well by doing good. It is time again to put that principle into practice.

The writer is an administrator at the U.S. Agency for International Development. This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Finns debate NATO membership

By John Acher
Reuters

HELSINKI — Finland's strict policy of non-alignment, formed over decades of the cold war to balance the sensitivities of its Soviet neighbour without alienating the West, is in doubt as NATO shows signs of expanding east.

Leading Finnish foreign policy expert Max Jakobson triggered off wide debate by predicting that NATO expansion could force Finland and even non-aligned Sweden and Austria into the alliance, or to risk of being left in limbo.

"Remaining outside NATO would mean exclusion from European decision-making on security policy and from security cooperation between NATO and Russia and ending up in an indefinite grey zone," Mr. Jakobson told a national defence symposium this month.

He outlined a scenario in which NATO and Russia reached an agreement on security issues, making the alliance the focus of decision-making on European security.

"In that case, we would have to ask again what is the safest alternative for us — committing ourselves or remaining alone," he said.

Conservative member of parliament Pertti Salolainen said that if NATO were to

expand on the basis of a deal with Russia, Finland would need to reappraise its security policy, and consider membership of NATO and the Western European Union (WEU), the emerging defence arm of the European Union (EU).

Minister for European Affairs Ole Norback, leader of the small Swedish People's Party, went a step further.

He said it was likely that Finland would eventually join NATO but added that now was not the time.

Although Finland has taken tentative steps to closer military ties with the West, having joined NATO's partnership for peace in 1994 and gaining WEU observer status the following year, such remarks are at odds with the country's foreign policy doctrine.

It stipulates non-alignment and an independent defence capability. For decades after World War II, Finland swore by neutrality, seeking to reassure a Soviet Union paranoid over the security of its western frontiers.

Finland also had bitter experience of outright conflict with Moscow, having fought bloody wars with the Soviet Union in 1939-40 and again in 1941-44.

That neutrality was transformed into official "non-alignment" after the col-

lapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and Finland's integration into Europe.

only if it increased security in Europe.

The question of how Fin-

land would react to an expansion of NATO, vehemently opposed by Russia, has surfaced as Finns begin to realise the Western alliance may indeed carry out its plans to take in ex-Communist states.

"Not too long ago, the perception in Finland was



"We'll resume after the glorious SU-27s we just sold to Beijing pass!"

President Martti Ahtisaari, a staunch supporter of non-alignment, felt compelled to end speculation in the midst of the debate on NATO and issued a brief statement reiterating Finland's position.

He said that any NATO expansion should happen

land would react to an expansion of NATO, vehemently opposed by Russia, has surfaced as Finns begin to realise the Western alliance may indeed carry out its plans to take in ex-Communist states.

"Not too long ago, the perception in Finland was

saw pact allies and the three Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia not to join the alliance.

Mr. Jakobson insists that it is not primarily fear of Russia that would drive Finland into NATO, although he told Reuters the protection offered by the alliance would not be unwelcome.

The Finns are well aware of the dangers of being left alone with their powerful neighbour.

"Finland has historical experience of the kinds of risk that go with being in a grey zone," Mr. Vaahoranta said.

He pointed to the 1939 pact between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union which cast Finland into the Soviet sphere of influence and led to the winter war.

Flourishing in the media is what the Helsinki Swedish-language newspaper Hufvudstadsbladet called "A debate about NATO."

Mr. Vaahoranta said the argument was not likely to be won by either side in the near future.

"It could take quite some time for such a reappraisal (of the policy of non-alignment) to be made or it might not ever be made," he added.

Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, May 30, 1996 A

Society on the Move

The risks worth the rewards

Although she was unable to attend, Her Majesty Queen Noor was awarded an honorary degree from the small but reputable Mount Holyoke College in the heart of the U.S.'s New England (South Hadley, Massachusetts) last Sunday. It was the college's 159th commencement since its establishment in 1837 as a "preeminent liberal arts college for women." Queen Noor, who obtained a B.A. in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University's first co-educational class in 1974, was among seven other outstanding women to be honoured. "Among Queen Noor's many accomplishments, we at Mount Holyoke are particularly pleased to honour her work with mother and child health care, education, and women's development. In the Arab World and the world at large, her pioneering efforts on behalf of Jordan are admirable and inspirational," said Joanne V. Creighton, president of Mount Holyoke. The keynote speaker at the commencement was U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala, who was also being awarded an honorary degree and shares with the Queen the fact that she is also of Arab descent. Queen Noor has been awarded honorary doctorates in international relations and law from the American University in Washington, D.C., Boston College and Wheaton College in Massachusetts, and the University of Calgary in Canada. The Queen was unable to attend the Mount Holyoke commencement as she was returning to Jordan with His Majesty King Hussein to celebrate the golden anniversary of the country's independence.

A WORTHY INVESTMENT: Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti put his social savvy to work again when on Monday evening he hosted a dinner for a visiting Saudi business delegation and other Arab delegations attending the Jordanian Industrial Exhibition. The organisers of the exhibit are happy with the results and they think their shoulder-dering of the cost of the invitation (some estimate \$150,000) was worth it. The P.M.'s dinner was attended by about 350 guests including most of Jordan's 31 Cabinet ministers, officials, the media and dozens of Jordanian businessmen. Although Saudi businessmen have been visiting Jordan long before the warming of relations between the two countries, the visit of this team, organised by the Amman Chamber Industry, received much coverage. Then again, delegations numbering nearly 60 people rarely go unnoticed.

THE INS AND OUTS OF JOURNALISM: The managing editor of the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, Kheirallah Kheirallah, probably ranks in importance ahead of all his Jordanian counterparts. During two recent stops he made in Amman while going and returning from Yemen, his "favourite" beat, as he maintains, Mr. Kheirallah saw the Prime Minister twice, at a time when in fact the P.M. would see none of the tens of Jordanian journalists who for weeks had asked to see him. Why the P.M. chose to see Mr. Kheirallah is not so much that he is the second man at the all-too-important Al Hayat, nor because he is an old-time friend of Jordan and Jordanian politicians, insiders say. The reason may well be that the P.M. is indeed too busy to see the Jordanians (journalists) these days, or because he is not yet ready with his long-declared plans to reshuffle the official and semi-official media, or because he is disenchanted with the work of so many of the local reporters and columnists. A sign of the latter (more a quarrel) is the reaction of sometime weekly columnist Khaled Mahadin, whose request to see the P.M. met with a negative response. As if in direct reaction to the P.M.'s declination to see him, Mr. Mahadin launched a scathing attack on the P.M. and his government in last week's tabloid Al Bilad. The article was apparently taken seriously at the top, but not by Mr. Kabariti himself who was busy preparing or leaving for his trip to Algeria. Meanwhile, Mr. Kheirallah is back in

London having been, no doubt, briefed well by Mr. Kabariti. The Jordanian press still wait in the wings to see what the young premier will have for them upon his return from Algeria. Good news we hope.

DEPUTY TURNED FELLOW HACK: Proclaiming that the Lower House of Parliament's floor is an insufficient forum from which a deputy can express his/her opinion, just as it is the case with the rostrum used by the political parties and their publications, Deputy Bassam Haddadin (leftist, Zarga) announced yesterday that he will be making use of Al Ra'i (Jordan's largest circulation Arabic daily) to air his views. "Over and above what I've just listed as reasons to start writing in here," the deputy wrote in his maiden article yesterday, "there is my wish to take up journalism as a career, since I also studied and practised it as a member of the Palestinian Press and Writers Association in the late seventies." "For the sake of participating in the political debate that started in 1989 and of commenting on current events," wrote Mr. Haddadin, whose family is from Maen, but who had organisational links with the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine before being elected to the House in 1989. "I've sought the opportunity to write regularly in Al Ra'i, which is read by thousands of people. As I already feel the jitters in attempting to write for those thousands, I hope I will be useful or at least I will try to be," the deputy wrote in the newspaper's editorial page — an article which was perhaps appropriately titled, "Jitters from writing in Al Ra'i." A warm welcome to comrade and colleague Haddadin, who had in fact written articles in Al Dustour and weekly papers before. He, of course, will not be the first deputy columnist in Al Ra'i. His colleague from Zarga, Islamist Bassam Emoush, writes a regular article in that paper every Thursday, and there are others who contribute on occasion.

SO WHERE'S THE BEEF? Invited by Jordanian deputies representing the Kingdom in the International Parliamentary Union, a group of six British M.P.s have been in Amman since Sunday meeting with their Jordanian hosts and counterparts, cabinet ministers and representatives of other decision making bodies in the country. Last year a group of Jordanian M.P.s were the guests of the British government on a similar visit. The British lawmakers' team is headed by John Fraser, a Labour Party member and lawyer with special interests in housing, inner city affairs and race relations. The other M.P.s are Labour Party members Thomas McAvoy and Robert Parry, and Conservative Party members David Amess, Ian Bruce and Richard Ottaway. New British Embassy Deputy Head of Mission Simon Collis hosted a dinner at his residence in honour of the visiting legislators which was attended by Senator and former Deputy Prime Minister Maan Abu Nowar and his wife, Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee Fawzi Tuemeih and his wife, and other Jordanians who are not necessarily parliamentarians. What the M.P.s really wanted to know, it appears, is why Jordan is boycotting British dairy products. On Wednesday it was off to Aqaba to meet up with the British royal naval ship the HMS Chatham docked in the seaport. A reception hosted by Defence and Military Attaché Tim Dumas and his wife, on behalf of the commander of the ship, was held last night on-board. Tonight British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe and his wife Archie will host a similar gathering, opting for land at the Alcazar Hotel, for Amman and Aqaba military and government officials and friends. The last time a British "ship came in", Aqaba suffered an earthquake. Whoever accused the British of not knowing how to party?

CHIEF FACTS AND FIGURES: If you are not a reader

of the Al Aswaq Arabic daily you may have missed a 12-day running feature which summarised the new book of Brigadier General (Ret.) Mohamed Shobaki, entitled, "The Commanders of the Arab Army." Published in Arabic, the book is a biography of the Jordan Armed Forces chiefs of staff, starting with Peake Pasha, the first chief of staff, and Glubb Pasha (prior to the Arabisation in 1956 of the army) up to Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Marei Kaabneh (but the book was printed before the current chief's promotion). According to the author, "There are many things about the commanders of the army which we know very little about, and most of our history books mention them in too brief a fashion. So I gathered all the information that I could to document part of our history." Mr. Shobaki (46), who is now marketing and public relations manager at Medica, MedEast Import and Consultancy Agency, says he hopes to print an English copy for those who are interested in Jordan's military establishment. The 184-page book includes dates and events, promotions, service, and major events in Jordan's history while the commanders were in service, and is illustrated with rare black and white as well as colour photographs provided by many of the officers who served the JAF. All is not without some humour though. There is a reference to Peake Pasha's aversion to garlic and how he would forbid any officer or soldier who may have eaten garlic-laced foods to enter his office even if consumption was two days earlier, and he forbade the cooks in the mess to try any culinary feats with the popular bulb. Mr. Shobaki, who retired from the service in February, has also published three books of his poems.

CONTINENTAL SPIRIT: With European parliamentary delegations in town this week — the British M.P.s and the European Parliament's team charged with relations with the Mashreq countries and the Gulf states — the European presence will continue to be highlighted as next week three countries mark national holidays with back-to-back receptions that this year could tire even the most avid party goer. First on the agenda are Italian Ambassador Francesco Cerulli and his wife Letizia, who will host a reception at the famous residence of the embassy in Jabal Weibdeh on Tuesday evening. The occasion is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Italian Republic, just on the heels of Jordan's 50th of independence. For the new ambassador, the event is the first such function he and Mrs. Cerulli will host since they took up their Amman post earlier this year.

Next, prominent businessman Tawfiq Kavar, who has been honorary consul general for Denmark for the past 30 years, is celebrating the Constitution Day of the Danes on Wednesday, June 5. Mr. Kavar and his wife Abba have invited nearly 600 people to join in marking the anniversary of the day Denmark became a constitutional monarchy in 1849. And speaking of monarchy, there is still no word on when Queen Margrethe II might reschedule a visit to Jordan. The queen, who is Denmark's first queen regnant as a result of a constitutional amendment in 1953 approving the introduction of female succession to the throne, was to have visited the Kingdom earlier this month but cancelled the trip suddenly. Some observers believed she cancelled because of the instability in the area during the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon last month, but no official reason was ever received.

Meanwhile, Denmark's neighbour to the northeast, Sweden, will celebrate its national day one day earlier than the actual anniversary of the occasion which falls on June 6. Ambassador Agneta Bohman has invited officials and friends of Sweden to her residence to mark the occasion on Wednesday, the same evening as the Danish fête. For those invited to both, no need to fret. The Kavar reception will

begin half an hour later and last an hour longer than Mrs. Bohman's. And since both hosts reside in Jabal Amman, it will be a convenient trip up or down Zahran Street, provided "designated drivers" are appointed. Three cheers for Nordic diplomatic cooperation!

WHAT A TURNOUT! Jordan's own diplomatic corps celebrated the 50th anniversary of the country's independence at embassies around the world. But perhaps the most impressive and international of all may well have been the one hosted in Cyprus. Not only did the president of the republic attend, but so too did the Speaker of the British House of Commons, who was visiting Cyprus at the time. The event was hosted by Jordan's Ambassador to Greece and non-resident Ambassador to Cyprus Amjad Majali and honorary consul Mikhail Lipios.

IT'S NOT ALL BLACK AND WHITE: Acting as an ambassador of sorts, next week, internationally acclaimed American photographer George Vass will be in Amman to open his "fine arts photography exhibit entitled, "Passage Across the Jordan," at the U.S. embassy's American Center Exhibition Hall. Mr. Vass studied at the International Center of Photography and the Pratt Institute in New York where he obtained a masters degree. He has held exhibitions throughout the U.S. and Europe and his photographs are in private and corporate collections around the world. His last showing in New York, called "Interrupted Cadence," was on the New York Times list of recommended exhibitions for six weeks. "Passage Across the Jordan" consists of 47 black and white photos of Jordan, Jerusalem and the West Bank. Mr. Vass, who will arrive in Jordan on Sunday, will open the exhibit on Wednesday, June 5 and hold a workshop on Thursday at 11:00 a.m. open to Jordanian photographers, in an effort arranged for with the Jordanian Photography Club, with the assistance of Zarga photographer Ahmad Safarini. U.S. Counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs Marcel Wahbeh is hosting a reception following the opening at the embassy. The exhibit will run until June 23.

LOOKOUT, DEPUTIES: Having met the criteria of demonstrating leadership potential and scholastic merit, Amman Baccalaureate School junior Ishraq Zraiqat has been selected to attend The National Young Leaders Conference (NYLC) in Washington, D.C. this summer. The NYLC is a leadership development programme for high school students: Ishraq, who is 16, will be among 350 other students to attend. According to NYLC, most participants are from the U.S., and "only a handful of students are chosen from select countries to qualify to receive a nomination." During the 11-day conference, Ishraq will interact with key U.S. leaders and newsmakers from the government, the media and diplomatic corps. There is even a skill-building activity which involves students role-playing the U.S. president, members of the cabinet and Capitol Hill representatives who must respond to an international crisis. The conference finale is the "Model Congress," in which scholars assume the roles of the U.S. Representatives in bringing a bill to law. Ishraq, the daughter of Royal Jordanian First Officer Mohammad Zraiqat and English teacher Leila Zraiqat, says she is interested in architecture and design, but is not sure what major she will choose when it comes time for college. Nevertheless, perhaps she will consider running for parliament representing Amman when she graduates. Hail the young leaders!

Jennifer Hamarneh

Cairo becoming a centre for 'restoring virginity'

By Hassan Mekki
Agence France Presse
CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has become a center for restoring the virginity of Arab women who have had sex before marriage, with clients coming from as far away as the Gulf to Cairo's clinics for the secret operation.

"The number of operations restoring the hymen went up by 25 per cent between 1965 and 1995, especially in Cairo, where 400,000 girls have had sexual relations before marriage," a medical source told AFP.

It is impossible to know the exact number of operations performed, but the source said thousands of women undergo it in order to avoid scandal when they marry.

"I do dozens of operations each month in my home on women from Egypt and various Arab countries," a nurse who asked not to be named told AFP.

"It is not a deception. I am only allowing these girls to get married and have a stable life despite the mistakes of the youth," she insisted.

"Not a single husband of my clients has discovered that his wife was not a virgin when they married," she said.

The nurse said the operation cost 300 Egyptian pounds (\$110) for low income Egyptian girls and up to \$600 for wealthy Gulf Arabs.

"Hymen restoration is performed secretly in hundreds of clinics or in the homes of doctors and nurses in Egypt, while in the Gulf countries the operation does not exist," said Thabet, a gynecology professor at Cairo University.

The operation consists of sewing a gelatin capsule filled with blood or red liquid — known in Egypt as a "blood grape" — to the entrance of the vagina a few hours

before the wedding.

Egypt's official marriage contract stipulates that a bride is a virgin and religious authorities have condemned the operation as a "falsification."

But a police source said "these operations have led over the past 10 years to an 80 per cent reduction in crimes of honour, especially in the cities."

"The society I live in forces me to use this trick because it does not tolerate any mistakes by women, even though my husband bragged about his sexual conquests before marriage," said Magda, who had the operation in Cairo.

Doctors who perform the operation risk a prison term of six months and suspension from the medical union.

Dr. Thabet, citing a study made by the Cairo School of Medicine, blamed the increase in girls who have sex before marriage on "pornographic programmes shown on satellite television."

In the countryside, where parents still tour the village showing off the bloodied sheets from their daughter's wedding night, girls have other means to protect their reputation.

The "daya," a traditional village nurse who is allowed to accompany the newlyweds into the bedroom, can prick the bride with a knife in the darkness so the groom and family think the girl has been deflowered.

Some even use magic: "I knew a woman who at the time of the wedding did not have enough money for the operation, so she asked her husband not to approach her for six months because she was possessed by djinn (demons)," said one doctor.

"During that time she raised the money, and had the procedure," he said.

Nubian musicians sing to save dying culture

By Anthony Shadid
The Associated Press
CAIRO, Egypt — In a soft voice made raspy by age, Ali Hassan Kuban explains how he reconstructed Nubian music to save it.

From Harlem, he found horns and modern drums. From James Brown, he learned to pamper an audience. And from his own Nubian culture — one of Africa's oldest — he resurrected the traditional rhythm.

"We use electric instruments, the guitar, the trumpet, the sax, different harmonies and arrangements, but it still has the same spirit," said Kuban, a sprightly but wizened 66-year-old.

"It still has the Nubian mood," he said.

Considered one of the greatest living Nubian musicians — and derided by some conservatives as a reckless innovator — Kuban describes his music as the link between a community cast into a diaspora and an ancient culture many fear is being lost.

Today, old Nubia lives as a memory, its villages beneath the mammoth reservoir of Lake Nasser and its distinctly African people scattered across Egypt and Sudan. Arabic, not Nubian, is often the first language, and their once-agrarian culture more and more resembles that of cosmopolitan Arab Egypt.

Kuban, a singer and band leader, sees his musical revolution as a way to save what's left of Nubia, melding the traditional with the modern. And Nubians, some of whom consider Kuban a godfather, say that in large part he has succeeded.

"He loves Nubian music and he loves to work with it," said Gamal Amin, a 35-year-old fan at a cafe near Kuban's downtown studio. "He renewed the music and because

of that the heritage won't die."

Once known as Kush, Nubia is an ancient land that stretched from the southern Egyptian town of Aswan through northern Sudan.

For thousands of years, its inhabitants played prominent roles in Egyptian history — from administrators in the pharaoh's court to harem guards in A Thousand and One Nights.

In modern times, they preserved a distinct culture within Arabic-speaking Egypt and Sudan, living under the illusion of independence in a land largely left alone by Egyptian officialdom.

That illusion collided with modernity in 1902 when the British built a dam across the Nile near Aswan.

It was raised twice, forcing Nubians to leave their scarce farmland and move to higher ground. Then, with the construction of the Aswan High Dam from 1962-65, Nubia was inundated for eternity.

Hundreds of its villages disappeared under Lake Nasser.

More than 100,000 Nubians were resettled, many of them to a crescent-shaped sliver of land north of Aswan known as Kom Ombo.

Today, thousands of Nubians also live in Egypt's two biggest cities, Cairo and Alexandria, though no one knows exactly how many.

Kuban was one of those who left Nubia for work in Cairo, part of a migration that still resonates among Nubians in the diaspora.

There, he started a musical career that spans four decades.

Up a stairway littered with trash in a shabby building with peeling paint, Kuban sits in his office cluttered with posters of album covers and playbills in English and French.

Eager to charm a guest, he pulls out concert notices from Europe, his

cassettes from France and pictures of his 1995 trip to play in New York.

"We want to develop Nubian music," Kuban said, wearing his trademark knit cap. "We want to spread Nubian music throughout the world. I want the world to know that Nubia is present in Egypt."

His inspirations are as eclectic as his music. Thirty years ago, he saw a band from Harlem play at a sporting club in Cairo and was mesmerised by the sounds of a trombone, saxophone and clarinet.

Later, he watched soul superstar James Brown perform on television and learned to give an audience what it wants.

The result is music that is loud, infectious and urban — a vocal style and lyrics that imitate traditional Nubian music enveloped in electric guitars, electronic keyboards and a raucous, free-wheeling horn section. His band numbers as many as 40.

"The music encourages a new culture, attracts the youth and develops Nubian society," he said.

Even young Nubians raised in Cairo speaking Arabic learn Nubian from listening to his music, Kuban said.

Likewise, he has encouraged a new generation of musicians to take the music in different directions. At least 40 Nubian tapes are on the market today in Cairo, all inspired by Kuban's work.

Music is never more important than at Nubian weddings, exuberant celebrations that sometimes last from early evening until 5 a.m.

In a tent beneath a freeway, members of Kuban's band played into the morning for hundreds of revelers, some dancing in the aisles and others on stage, swaying to distinct-

ly African rhythms.

"The music is the spirit of the Nubian people," said Hassan Meky, who has played keyboards for Kuban for 31 years. Songs speak about life and during work, Nubians always sing. So when they come to Cairo and we play the music, we join the spirit between the home and here."

But Kuban's revolution seems to strike a nerve with some Nubian activists agitating for a more aggressive form of nationalism.

Haggag Addul, a leading Nubian author, is one. He has demanded the government apologise for the resettlement and allow Nubians to build new communities along the shores of Lake Nasser.

"This is not Nubian music, this is what's left over from Nubian music," he said derisively.

As part of what he calls the diaspora era, "The music and musicians are disappearing in dramatic fashion."

Kuban and others are more optimistic. The resettlement remains painful, described by one musician as "El-Higra El-Murra," or the bitter migration.

But unlike a generation ago, Nubians today are aware of a common identity born of a shared notion of permanent exile.

Within that growing consciousness, Kuban says, his music — part-Nubian, part-global — will serve as a bridge.

"The old is here," he said, pointing to his head. "The elderly remember everything about their homes."

"The young learn when they listen to the rhythms," he said.

Conservatism, Inertia, et al.

By Jean-Claude Elias

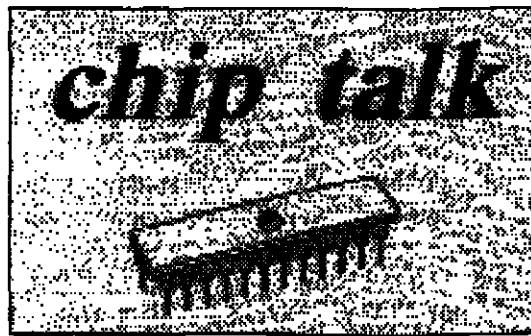
IF IT is true that each profession produces its own idiosyncrasies it is equally true that the main aspects of human behaviour can be found in most trades and activities.

When we talk of conservatism or, on the contrary, of extremism, we usually think of politics. These "qualities" however are reflected in many a profession. Take the computer business for instance (you didn't expect me to actually talk politics, did you?). Its members have already developed a good number of attitudes traditionally found in older professions.

The old generation of computer graduates finds it harder and harder to have to constantly adapt to new products, whether hardware or software based. They seem to be satisfied with the ones they know. Not because they are better products but simply because they are the ones they know well, and feel comfortable to use.

These "ancestors" — no offence meant, I'm one of them chronologically speaking — still talk of the old times when a computer would occupy half of a room's floor and wouldn't work without a precision air conditioning system to keep it cool. A personal computer makes them laugh now — merely a toy. They remember, with exaggerated nostalgia, the days when programming was really a tough job, reserved to those with an IQ in the range of Albert Einstein's.

New products are not old timers' only problem. Young people working in the computer field annoy them as much as the new Windows 95 operating system or the latest CD-ROM. "What? These kids can't seriously pretend to know



as much as we do?" The truth is the said kids sometimes possess much more valuable knowledge of new techniques than the old guard. Attending meetings at the Jordan Computer Society in Amman can be very instructive in this regard. Suffice it to watch how condescending is the attitude of those members who have been working for fifteen years or more, towards newcomers.

Yes, after about two generations of existence the computer world shows its weight, its inertia. Its population now has its quota of extremists, conservatives, and fortunately open minded people. Being able to accept what's young, what's new, is essential to progress, be it technical, scientific or simply social. There is always much to learn from the new generation. Company leaders with a clear vision of the future, like Microsoft's Bill Gates, have proven extremely successful. Corporations with a more conservative approach, like IBM for instance, find it hard to stay afloat.

Not just another show

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

WHAT STRANGE times we live in. This is true because assuming that you are doing a good job in whatever it is that you do for a living, you can never expect to be either praised or complemented.

Another annoying — even frustrating to some — aspect of life has to do with the selective handing out of invitations for some major exhibitions. And while this most certainly is not an exclusively Jordanian custom, it remains quite a widespread one in Jordan. One practised by both Jordanians and the foreigners living amongst them.

Another puzzling aspect has to do with certain facts regarding a younger generation of Jordanians who had studied, say for example, in Europe. These people are hardly ever invited to events organised by Europeans even though the individual European cultural centres here in Amman keep a continuously updated record of both names and addresses of those graduates now back in Amman.

However, and having said this, the private nature of certain functions should not really matter at all when there is a huge selection of events such as film festivals, musicals, and concerts which are in themselves open to the public. But the bone I am picking at here has to do with excluding the greater part of an audience. A very small audience to start with.

This music loving part of the public is excluded in such cases with the purpose of turning what is supposed to be a public performance, a concert, into a private display. A private display put on for the sake of a selected group of people both lucky enough to get invited, and those willing to go through a bit of trouble to secure an invitation.



Meanwhile, die hard fans of classical music are left with the option of looking on from afar.

And while I do not want to sound like one looking a gift horse in the mouth, I feel that I have to say these things because I truly believe that while music is an art, it is inherently a public art. Because of this, I cannot help but express my anger at any attempt that begins to turn music into an art form for the elite.

For maybe classical music was an art for the elite centuries ago. But not in Jordan, today, on the verge of the twenty first century, when globally, classical music is struggling to maintain an audience. And when in Jordan, the Music Conservatory can rarely manage to fill the 350-seat auditorium at the Royal Cultural Centre.

If we truly love music, then we should put our efforts into broadening classical music's share of the art loving audience rather than alienating prospective customers. For members of an audience are, after all, customers. They are the paying customers of the National Music Conservatory and its orchestra. An orchestra which is a proud national institution that deserves to be treated like one.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 30, 1996

3:00	Aladdin
3:30	NBA
4:30	Pirates
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Le Chat Perche
5:30	Varieties
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	A Football Match From The 7th Arab Cup
9:00	Stark Trek
10:00	News In English
10:25	Feature Film — The Blue Boy
	Starring: Emma Thompson & Adrian Dunbar
12:00	My Two Wives

Friday, May 31, 1996

3:00	Iris
3:15	Pebbles And Bamm Bam
3:40	Bush School
3:50	See How They Grow
4:00	Crystal Maze
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Le Chat Perche
5:30	Telefilm
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine
7:30	News Headlines
7:35	Growing Pains
8:00	Frontline: The Nicotine War
8:45	It Had To Be You
9:10	The Hanging Gale
10:00	News In English
10:25	Classic Movie — Waterloo Bridge
	Starring: Vivian Leigh & Robert Taylor

Saturday, June 1, 1996

3:00	Moomin
3:30	Pumpkin Patch
4:00	Blue Heelers
4:40	Big Brother Jake
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Ordy
5:15	Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
6:00	Serie — Chateau Vallon
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Faut Pas Rever
7:35	Ellen
8:00	The Discovery Of The 7th Continent
8:30	Miami Vice
9:10	Earth Assignment
9:35	Prism
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Feature Film — Mrs. Soffel
	Starring: Diane Keaton & Mel Gibson

Sunday, June 2, 1996

3:00	The Mask
3:30	Mac & Mutley
4:10	Italian League
5:00	News Flash
5:01	French Programme — Ordy
5:15	Documentary — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
6:00	Magazine — Envoye Special
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:35	Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
8:00	The American Chart Show
8:30	Jordanian Armed Forces Band
8:45	The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air
9:10	Blackie's Magic
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:15	Counterstrike

Monday, June 3, 1996

3:00	Bonkers
3:30	Richie Rich
4:00	Animals of the Mediterranean
5:00	News Flash
5:01	Children's Programme — Ordy
5:15	Family Programme — L'Ecole Des Fans
6:00	Magazine — Thalassa
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Science
7:35	The Nanny
8:00	Rhythms'Thar Speak
8:25	Rock Around The World
9:10	100 Years Of Capitalism In Korea
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	P.S. I Luv U
11:55	Taurus Rising

Tuesday, June 4, 1996

3:00	Iris
3:20	Captain Planet
3:45	Hot Shots
4:10	The Bob Morrison Show
4:35	Alf
5:00	News Flash
5:01	Children's Programme — Ordy
5:15	Document — La Vie Devant Moi
5:30	Game Show — Que Le Meilleur Gagne
6:00	Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine
7:35	Encounter
	Producer: Rami Khorri
8:00	Blossom
8:25	Deep Probe Expeditions
9:10	Star Trek
10:20	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Feature Film — Black Moon Rising
	Starring: Tommy Lee Jones & Linda Hamilton

Wednesday, June 5, 1996

3:00	The Flintstones
3:30	Iris
3:45	Bill Nye The Science Guy
4:10	Kelly
5:00	News Flash
5:01	Children's Programme — Les Polluards
5:30	Serie — Secret De Famille
7:00	Le Journal
7:15	Magazine — Sports Et Musique
7:35	Evening Shade
8:00	World Net
8:25	Changer
9:10	Hunter
10:00	News In English
10:25	The Bold And The Beautiful
11:10	Airwolf

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HERE AND THERE

* A FRENCH citizen in the city of Lille tried to kill the dog that bit his little daughter. When his mother-in-law interfered to prevent the killing by throwing herself in front of the dog, the man fired a bullet at the animal, but unfortunately it struck the woman's head and killed her.

* IN SEOUL, a civil court passed a judgement in which a South Korean woman was divorced after a six-year marriage on the pretext that her husband was incapable of making love to her. This is the first time a Korean court accepts such a case where sterility is not regarded as an adequate justification for divorce.

* A FRENCH man was sentenced to four-year imprisonment and fined 4,000 francs for driving a car without a licence. It was disclosed, after 30 years of unlawful driving, that the man rejected sitting for a driving test because he was found guilty of committing 23 thefts during his lifetime.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

** I've got a cold. I've been sneezing all day since I woke up.

Laqad osibt benazlet bard. Enni a'toos toolan'-naha monthu anstay'qatht.

** Shall I call the family doctor?

Hal astadi' tabibal aa'ila?

** No, it isn't bad enough for that.

La, laysal amru sayye'an ela hathehid daraja.

** What about an aspirin?

Hal ohdir laki aspirin?

** No, thanks. I don't like taking medicine.

La, shukran, fa'ana la atanawal al-aspirin.

** Can I make some tea?

Hal asna' laki ba'dash-shay?

** I'm not used to drinking tea at all.

Lam ata'awwad shorb ash'ay italaqan.

** What would you like to drink?

Matha tofadilleen an tashrabi?

** Some orange juice, please.

Ba'dan min asiril burtuqal, law samaht.

** Are you cold? Can I close the window?

Hal tash'oreena bibard? Hal oghliq an-nafitha?

** Why don't you lie down? May I bring you a blanket?

Limatha la tarqudeen? Hal ohdir laki bat-taniya?

** I'm feeling much better now. This orange juice is very good.

Ash'or bitahasson afdal al-aan. Asiril burtuqal hatha mufcedon jiddan.

Thalika jayyed.

DENTIST: "Open wide, please."

PATIENT: "Ah."

DENTIST: "Wider."

PATIENT: "Aah."

DENTIST: "Much wider, please."

PATIENT: "Aaah, Aaah."

DENTIST: "Still wider."

PATIENT: "Now look doctor, if you're getting in, I'm getting out."

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

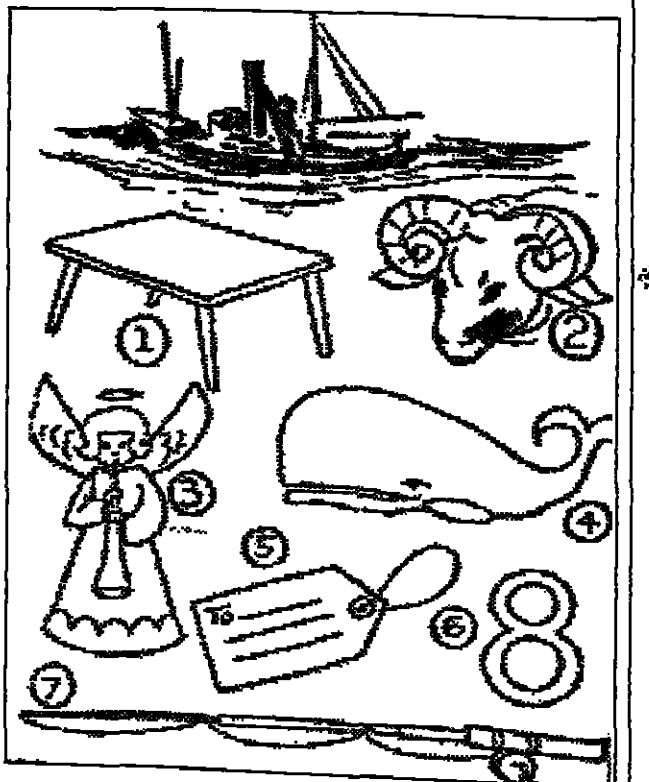
1. What are the "Steppes"?
2. Who slept with a stone on a pillow?
3. In what game is the word "bias" used?
4. What do we mean by a stymie?
5. What is a chukker?
6. Is ocelot.....

- a- the name of an airship
- b- wailing noises on the wireless
- c- a cat-like animal
- d- a sort of whale
- e- an eye on the tail of a peacock?

PUZZLES

A) WHAT KIND OF BOAT?

Use the initial letters of the pictures to find out the name of the boat.



B) A FRUITY ONE

TEACHER: "Now, children, if I saw a man beating a donkey and stopped him, what virtue would I be showing?"

JOHN: "Brotherly love."

A grocer had three lines of tinned fruit, he wanted to dispose of, so he decided to sell them all at a reduced price. He had 66 tins of pineapples, 58 tins of peaches, and 54 tins of apricots. Though he sold each kind at the same price he received an equal amount of money for each kind. How was this possible?



Russian pianist Rudova Ljubov Lvovna (left) coaches Weng Yi, a 16-year-old student in posture and technique at Xiamen Music School. Music is a tradition on Gulangyu, dubbed "Piano Island," which is home to 300 pianos and two internationally renowned concert pianists (Reuter photo)

Music — a tradition in China's 'piano island'

By Benjamin Kang Lim
Reuter

GULANGYU, China — The music of Bach and Beethoven wafts along the narrow, winding alleys. Birds sing in the trees and no engines interrupt the peace of this tiny island nestled off the coast of one of China's most bustling cities.

Gulangyu, a 1.7-square kilometer island with a population of just 48,000, is home to at least 300 pianos and two renowned international concert pianists, Yin Chengzong and Xu Feiping.

"Music is a tradition on Gulangyu," Yin's older brother, Yin Chengdian, assistant principal of the island's Xiamen Music School, said in an interview.

The school is a cradle for tomorrow's musicians. Scores of recitals are held every year at the homes of the residents of the island, off the booming special economic zone of Xiamen in southeastern Fujian province.

The main wharf, built in the shape of a piano, is another testimony to its music tradition. No bicycles or cars are allowed to shatter the serenity on Gulangyu, which means literally "Drum Wave Islet."

Gulangyu, named for the waves that splash into a cave on its shore with the sound of pounding drums, owes its tradition to a past steeped in Western influence.

Xiamen was one of five treaty ports that China was forced to open to foreign traders after losing the opium war to Britain in 1842. Gulangyu, at the mouth of Xiamen's Bay, became an international settlement and once housed up to 12 foreign consulates.

Along with the foreigners came ele-

gant mansions with arched windows and balconies, and churches, two of which are still in use. Along with the houses of God came psalms and pianos.

The foreigners have left, but their music stayed on. The music stopped during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, during which young fanatical Red Guards stormed homes and smashed pianos, which were seen as symbols of elitism.

"Records and Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) stamps that I loved dearly, I burned them myself to avoid the assault of the Red Guards," Yin recalled, gesturing with a flourish of pain.

Red Guards destroyed most of the Yin family's antiques and drove them from their 1,700-square metre estate, which was built in 1925.

They returned only three years later. Some piano virtuosos were jailed and one committed suicide during that chaotic period.

Pianist Yin Chengzong survived by singing the praises of the Communist Party, endearing him to the gang of four — the militant leaders of the Cultural Revolution led by Jiang Qing, wife of Chairman Mao Zedong.

Yin Chengzong was purged with the Gang of Four after Mao died in 1976, but was allowed to leave for the United States in 1983 as part of China's drive to woo the world with its musicians, artists and athletes.

Five other brothers and sisters have joined Yin Chengzong in exile.

Yin Chengdian, the sixth in a family of four sons and five daughters, stayed behind to look after their bedridden mother and carry on the legacy of Gulangyu, popularly known as "piano island."

Music is also deeply rooted in the Protestant family. Eight of the nine

brothers and sisters play the piano, and another brother living in the United States is a baritone.

"This is where my younger brother (Yin Chengzong) and I held our first concert when we were children," Yin Chengdian said, pointing to a crumbling European-style mansion with slatted wooden windows.

Yin Chengdian, 58, a teacher for 38 years, has a dream: "I hope this school will produce more Yin Chengzong's," he said.

His Xiamen Music School, which opened in 1990, has produced more than a dozen first-prize winners at Chinese music competitions.

Among the school's seven piano instructors is a Russian, hired this year for \$500 a month or 10 times the average monthly urban income in China, to instruct advanced students.

The school, in a former church built by Americans in 1934, has about 200 students. One-third of its graduates this year were expected to attend music conservatories.

For 73-year-old Su Linhui, Gulangyu resident and a retired school principal, music is more than a tradition.

Four of his five grandchildren attend Xiamen Music School.

Su also spends at least one hour each day listening to classical music, and on weekends listens to his grandchildren as they practice piano and violin.

"My generation and the next generation bore a lot of hardships... We were born at the wrong time," said Su, who was branded a rightist and banished to the countryside in 1958 at the height of Mao's anti-rightist movement.

"There was no way to cultivate my love for music... But our grandchildren are luckier. They live in the period of reform and opening up," said Su, who was rehabilitated in 1979.

Filmmakers try to make ends meet with less

By John Horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Just like everyone else, the movie studios need to go on a diet every now and then.

With production and marketing costs spiraling and domestic ticket sales stagnating, Hollywood profit margins are suddenly as inadequate as Arnold Schwarzenegger's acting range. Although the summer is filled with films costing more than \$50 million, including Schwarzenegger's *Eraser*, the season includes a surprising number of economical studio releases.

The inexpensive movies are far more than penny-wise, plot-foolish filler. Cold Comfort Farm, a new movie from the usually better financed John Schlesinger, has opened to strong reviews. John Sayles' low-budget *Lone Star*, due soon from typically spendthrift Castle Rock Entertainment, is among the most acclaimed movies in the Cannes Film Festival.

"I hate the idea of something that is too expensive," says Schlesinger, whose credits include *Midnight Cowboy*, *Marathon Man* and *The Falcon And The Snowman*.

Not having a lot of money, the director says, "keeps you on your toes. You find new and different ways of doing things rather than simply throwing money at the screen."

Domestic and international revenues have not kept pace with accelerating filmmaking costs. The average studio film costs more than \$50 million to produce, advertise and distribute, and earnings of some of the town's highest fliers are crashing.

The Walt Disney Co. said in April its movie profits fell 35 per cent from 1995. In May, Viacom Inc. reported first-quarter earnings fell 61 per cent, thanks in part to poor performance by its Paramount Pictures unit.

Castle Rock Entertainment, once one of Hollywood's highest-flying producers with *A Few Good Men*, *In The Line Of Fire* and *City Slickers*, has been stung by a series of expensive underachievers. Parent Turner Entertainment said Castle Rock's *City Hall* and other flops forced a \$60 million write-off.

Castle Rock is still making expensive movies — paying Demi Moore \$12 million to star in the troubled *Striptease*, due out in June. In an effort to bring down its costs, the company is releasing several low-budget art films, including *Lone Star*, and *The Spitfire Grill* (Aug. 23) winner of the Audience Award at this year's Sundance Film Festival.

The latter film was bought by Castle Rock for \$10 million

— a lot for an independent film, but a fraction of the average studio movie.

Davis Entertainment, the producers of the big-budget summer film *Courage Under Fire* with Denzel Washington and Meg Ryan, has launched a low-budget division seeking to make movies costing around \$1 million.

Producer Joel Silver (*Die Hard*) and director Richard Donner (*Lethal Weapon*) have been among Hollywood's most wildly extravagant movie-makers for years. At the Cannes Film Festival, Donner and Silver said they would join forces to make five low-budget action films in the next two years.

Actor Dustin Hoffman, also in a Cannes announcement, said he would produce several low-budget films over the next few years.

The push for low-budget filmmaking has two motivations, one financial, one creative.

The volume of executive-suite second-guessing is directly proportional to a film's cost — every million brings a dozen more stupid suggestions. Less money brings more creative freedom.

Director Mike Figgis was free to make *Leaving Las Vegas* precisely the way he wanted it because nobody really wanted it.

Furthermore, a well-received film made cheaply can have far better margins than an expensive blockbuster. Columbia Pictures' *Sense And Sensibility*, for example, has sold \$110 million in tickets worldwide — for a production cost of \$15.5 million.

Schlesinger's *Cold Comfort Farm*, based on the comic novel of English country life by Stella Gibbons, was made more than a year ago by the BBC for British television. It cost about \$3 million, compared to the more than \$20 million budget of Schlesinger's 1996 Sally Field movie, *Eye For An Eye*.

With a lot of money, Schlesinger says, "you've got the studio breathing down your neck — the whole problem of (audience research) previews and all the problems that brings. The BBC pays nothing — you're working for the honour and the glory. The attraction is you have freedom. There is something to be said for working in English fields."

Other well-known directors will release movies this year that are far more modest than their recent works. Stephen Frears, who presided over the \$47 million disaster *Mary Reilly*, has completed the small film *The Van*.

2 movies hope to kick a little ash

By John Horn
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood executives are renowned for spewing hot air and showcasing volcanic tempers.

Now their movies are about to match their dispositions. Competing studios are racing two megabudget films about volcanoes to the screen, and two other motion pictures putting magma on the marquee are in the works.

Double vision isn't limited to eruptions. There are two movies about neanderthals on different studio drawing boards. More amazingly, rival filmmakers are nearing the starting blocks on two separate films about the late runner Steve Prefontaine. Meanwhile, Nelson Mandela is the focus of an upcoming feature film and cable television movie.

Screenwriters and producers say they are dumbfounded by the sudden double-dealing.

"It's very strange," says Laura Ziskin, whose Fox 2000 Production Company is making *Volcano*.

"There are ideas in the air and people grab on one all at once," she said.

The twin movies are more the result of a small network of cocktail party chatter than plagiarism. Working screenwriters, like many who work in Hollywood, tend to circulate in small orbits, and hot ideas — just like hot restaurants — quickly become Chardonnay-circuit chatter.

Identically themed movies have bubbled up over the years, but rarely with the current frenzy. *Tombstone* and Wyatt Earp hit the multiplex within months of each other in 1993 and 1994. Christopher Columbus: The Discovery and 1492: Conquest Of Paradise both debuted a year earlier; and *Lambada: Set The Night On Fire* and *The Forbidden Dance* came and went the very same 1990 day.

Hollywood history shows that when like-minded movies go toe-to-toe, at least one invariably suffers badly. Once Kevin Costner committed to *Robin Hood: Prince Of Thieves*, comparable Sherwood Forest projects went the way of the catapult. After Dustin Hoffman signed on for the virus movie *Outbreak*, the nearly indistinguishable *Hot Zone* vanished.

The odds are good that both the *Volcano* and Prefontaine movies will debut close to each other. The makers of *Volcano*, about an eruption in Los Angeles, and Dante's Peak, focusing on lava in the Pacific northwest, both plan to start cameras within the next several weeks. Dante's Peak will be the first out of the gate, but it's unclear who will be first in theatres.

For a while, though, it didn't look like Dante's Peak would even be in the race.

Screenwriter Les Bohem had just finished page 90 on his unsold Dante's Peak script when he read that Disney was developing a project called *Ring Of Fire*, set largely inside a volcano. Then he heard a rumour that Michael Crichton's (*Jurassic Park*) next novel was about a volcano. Bohem said the feeling was a little like holding two pair in a poker game and seeing in the mirror that your foe clutches a full house.

"My tendency is to fold," he says. "But (producer) Joe Singer wanted to bluff." It worked: Crichton's novel hasn't surfaced, and the Disney film, if made, will come out long after Universal's Dante's Peak (with Pierce Brosnan) and 20th Century Fox's *Volcano* (starring Tommy Lee Jones).



Former Beatles drummer Pete Best (right) autographs an early photograph of himself with the band for a fan in Singapore, where he was promoting a local Beatles-themed restaurant and bar. Best, considered music history's unluckiest man after his 1962 sacking from the Beatles just before they shot to fame, says he is finally earning royalties from early recordings with John, Paul and George (Reuter photo)

Life gets better for unlucky ex-Beatle Pete Best

By Matthew Lewis
Reuter

SINGAPORE — drummer Pete Best, considered one of the unluckiest figures in rock history after his 1962 firing by the Beatles just before they shot to fame, says he is finally getting what he deserves — recognition and royalties.

Best, 54 and still Liverpool-based, does not look back in anger on his pre-fab four days.

The friendly and soft-spoken drummer, whose brushed-back helmet of grey hair and immaculate mustache are reminders more of singer Engelbert Humperdinck than John Lennon, now fronts his own band and is on the road for an 18-country tour.

The Pete Best Band, whose other five members were not born when the Beatles broke up in 1970, plays "classic rock 'n' roll" including a peppering of Beatles' standards, said Best.

The handsome drummer was abruptly sacked in August 1962 in favour of Ringo Starr. A few days later, the Beatles recorded their first hit single, *Love Me Do* and *P.S. I Love You*.

Best told Reuters he was pleased by the *The Beatles Anthology* 1, a double-CD set of early rarities released last year with great fanfare.

"It makes me happy in view of the fact that they've actually given me acknowledgement — I'm on 10 tracks," said Best in a familiar Liverpool lilt.

He was in Singapore with former Beatles' manager Allan Williams to promote the opening of a Beatles-themed restaurant called *Pepper's*.

Another contemplated volcano movie, Paramount's *Caldera*, has cooled off.

Both Bohem and Jerome Armstrong, the writer of *Volcano*, say they were unaware of each other's efforts until the screenplays were finished.

"I think sometimes there are things that get in the wind somehow. I don't know how to explain it," Armstrong says. "I didn't know about the other projects until two days before I was going to sell my project. It has given me a very high sense of anxiety, but I thought I sort of had the best take on the idea."

Steve James and Peter Gilbert, who collaborated on the documentary *Hoop Dreams*, plan to start filming their Prefontaine movie on July 1. Tom Cruise's production company (with Robert Towne, who wrote screenplays for *Chinatown* and *The Last Detail*), behind the screenplays to begin production on its Prefontaine project about the same week, a spokesman says.

The two film crews quite conceivably could run into each other while crisscrossing Prefontaine's home turf in Oregon. Given the runner's meteoric rise, the interest is not altogether surprising.

"It's what attracted Peter and I to *Hoop Dreams* — this film has a lot of the same element," James says. "You can't predict it, and it's an incredibly powerful and dramatic story."

What doesn't make any sense is why both movies are starting more than 20 years after the Olympic athlete died in a car crash.

James and Gilbert's film is being made with the Prefontaine family's cooperation. It will star first-time actor TV's *My So-Called Life*, in the title role. Cruise's production has cast Brooklyn actor Billy Crudup in the lead, and may have the best access to the University of Oregon, the runner's alma mater.

John Danton, the journalist author of the novel *Neanderthal*, says similar ideas could be linked to the millennium. *Neanderthal*, a story of modern-day Neanderthals, shares themes with *Almost Adam*, a novel from Peter Popescu. Rival studios Dreamworks and Fox paid more than \$1 million for the respective movie rights to the similar novel. *Ember From The Sun* is attracting some Hollywood interest, as is an upcoming book on an indomitable snowman.

"Maybe there's something in the air," Danton says. "Perhaps it is some way related to the millennium and millennium fever. People are looking forward as well as backward." Danton notes several nonfiction works about Neanderthals have been published in recent months.

The volcano movies were planned long before anybody saw a frame of film from *Twin Peaks*, which enjoyed a stellar opening weekend of \$11 million five days after its release, the advance in special effects and the new generation of new movie villains. *Volcano* and Dante's Peak are like smart bets on paper.

The question is whether the race to the cinema will cause irreparable damage.

"There is a foot race," says Bill Mechanic, the president of 20th Century Fox. "But they can't be overly rushed. Being first with a bad movie is not a good idea."

Smallpox virus set to be destroyed in June 1999

By Stephanie Nebel
Reuter

GENEVA — The 190 member states of the World Health Organisation (WHO) have recommended destroying the world's last stocks of the virulent smallpox virus in June 1999.

The unanimous decision allows three years to search the globe for any forgotten or hidden stocks of the variola virus — which used to kill, disfigure or blind millions each year.

Smallpox was declared the first globally eradicated disease in May 1980. The last known stocks of the virus are kept at two high-security laboratories in the United States and Russia.

But medical and military experts fear that other states could have hidden stocks for potential use for terrorist purposes or germ warfare, according to WHO sources.

Any release of the infectious virus could be lethal, as populations are no longer considered to have immunity. The last known case was detected in Somalia in October 1977.

"There are different kinds of fears. There is a danger if the virus escapes, nobody would be immune anymore," Dr. David Heymann, director of WHO's Division of Emerging and Other Communicable Diseases, told Reuters in an interview.

A closed-door WHO committee,

composed of all 190 member states, adopted a resolution Friday recommending destruction of the last known stocks on June 30, 1999.

The resolution said the "escape of variola virus from laboratories would be a serious risk as an increasing proportion of the population lack immunity to smallpox."

The full World Health Assembly is to make a preliminary endorsement of its recommendation Saturday, officials said. A future annual assembly will have to take a final decision.

"The final decision will be taken after there is a political will to destroy the stocks," Dr. Heymann said.

"We have a period of three years to

make sure there is that political will to destroy them," the American doctor added. "It gives countries the responsibility of verifying one more time."

Dr. Heymann declined to name any states suspected of hoarding stocks. "But we are constantly on the lookout for other stocks."

"We know about the official stocks. They are kept at two high-security research laboratories," he added.

The stocks are kept at the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta (Georgia) and a WHO collaborating centre at the Russian State Research Centre of Virology and Biotechnology, at Koltsovo in the heart of the Urals.

"These two laboratories are also very expensive to maintain. We'd like to see the resources devoted to other problems," Dr. Heymann said.

He said health officials from one country, which he declined to identify, had once called up the Geneva-based agency saying they had found forgotten smallpox virus stocks "in the deepest part of their laboratory freezer."

"We helped them destroy the stocks," Dr. Heymann said.

Another top WHO official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters: "Some WHO members believe there should be better monitoring to ensure that all stocks are absolutely destroyed by all countries."

"There were some hints at the last WHO Executive Board in January that some countries like Iran may have stocks."

Experts had to weigh the potential risk of the virus escaping with the potential benefit from retaining it for further scientific research on viral genes and proteins.

Less than 30 years ago, smallpox was endemic in 31 countries, according to WHO. Between 10 and 15 million people were stricken each year, including nearly two million who died and millions who were disfigured or blinded for life.

Solid foods do not make infants fat — study

WASHINGTON (R) — Introducing solid food to infants when they are only three or four months old will not make them fat, researchers said.

The findings contradict some other recent studies but the authors from Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre said theirs is the most rigorous analysis to date.

The data on 127 infants presented at the American Pediatric Society meeting here showed that children given solid food at three to four months of age had not become fat by six months. The current recommendation of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to start babies on solids between the ages of four and six months.

"Calories from solid food replace, rather than add to, calories from formula," Bonny Specker, the main author,

said. "In fact, infants introduced to solids earlier actually have slightly less body fat than those introduced to solids later."

Dr. Specker said this may be because the first solid foods are cereals, which are carbohydrates and not fats.

The Cincinnati researchers followed 127 infants, half of whom got their first solids at three to four months and half at six months. The study will continue to track their growth and body composition for several years, looking at both the age that foods were introduced and whether they were exclusively store-bought prepared baby foods or food chosen by their parents that was either store-bought or home-cooked.

Cancer drug trials send profitless firm's shares soaring

LONDON (AFP) — Shares in a biotechnology company that has never made a profit or sold a product soared as the firm announced the successful completion of trials on a drug that could prove a major breakthrough in the treatment of cancer.

British Biotech, valued at £152 million (\$250 million) when floated on the stock market in 1992, was late Tuesday worth over £1.9 billion (\$2.85 billion) after its shares ended the day up 285 pence (\$4.3) at £33.15.

In February last year they were worth just £4.30 (\$6.5).

Dealers and investors rushed to buy scarce stock in the Oxford-based company after the firm said "positive results" of Marimastat, its anti-cancer drug, had been recorded in patients suffering from four different forms of the disease.

British Biotech said the trials had suggested that Marimastat could slow

the progression of ovarian and pancreatic cancer, causing only limited side effects.

"Marimastat can now be progressed to definitive clinical trials," said Peter Lewis, the firm's research and development director.

The trials will compare it with existing cancer drugs and a placebo. The first of these, in 300 pancreatic cancer sufferers, would begin shortly, the firm said.

It said positive results recorded in November trials had been confirmed in larger patient numbers. The firm added that no severe drug-related toxicity had been shown and that localised musculo-skeletal pain was the only side-effect.

The drug aims to stop the spread of cancer, unlike other cancer drugs which try to kill tumours.

As all solid tumours spread in the same way, the drug could possibly be used for a very broad range of cancer

treatments.

The company, however, was quick to play down suggestions that it has discovered a definitive cure for cancer, and insisted that it did not want to build up the hopes of cancer patients.

If its share price holds up, 10-year-old British Biotech could become the first firm to enter the prestigious FTSE 100 index — which incorporates Britain's top 100 companies by stock market value — without ever having made a profit.

The group's losses increased steadily over the years as expenditure on research and development costs increased.

In the year to the end of April 1991, the company suffered a pre-tax loss of £6.1 million (\$9.15 million) and in the 12 month-period to April 30 last year, losses had climbed to £26.3 million (\$39.5 million).

Trauma could trigger binge eating disorder

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Obese people who go on eating binges are more likely to have suffered trauma like physical or sexual abuse than other overweight individuals, researchers said.

A study of obese women presented at an international gathering of obesity experts in Barcelona showed that 41 per cent of binge eaters tested had undergone traumatic experiences, against 14 per cent of other obese women.

The study, carried out at the Eating Disorder Centre in Garda, Italy, compared the histories of 64 obese women, 29 of whom had binge eating disorder.

"In the binge eating disorder patients, we found a significant number had a history of trauma, of physical abuse above all," study author Patricia Todisco told Reuters at the 7th

European Congress on Obesity.

Binge eating disorder is characterised by recurrent episodes of eating an unusually large amount of food in a short time, without the compensatory behaviours of bulimia — vomiting, purging, fasting and excessive exercise.

The patients who had suffered trauma were also more likely to feel a sense of disassociation with their surroundings or a loss of control when they were binge eating.

"They eat very quickly and don't taste the food," Dr. Todisco said. "They eat everything they find around them...A normal person could not eat this way."

She said other studies had found that anorexic binge eaters were also more likely to have a history of trauma than other anorexics.

The experiences that could lead to a

pattern of binge eating include battering, sex abuse or loss of a loved one, the study showed.

"Our data show that trauma and dissociative experiences may play an important role in the development of binge eating disorder," it concluded.

The finding was important for treating obese patients with binge problems because they would be likely to respond to behaviour modification that did not impose a restrictive diet, which has been shown to encourage bingeing, the researchers said.

"Our data emphasise the importance of systematically screening both the presence of trauma and dissociative symptoms in obese patients, especially those with binge eating disorder, as they may have consequences to the planning of treatment," Dr. Riccardo Dalle Grave, another of the study's authors, said.

Women's health activists demand genetic privacy

WASHINGTON (R) — An international coalition of women's and health groups urged governments to enact policies to protect "genetic privacy," so people did not face discrimination because of their genetic makeup.

They said they were concerned about losing medical insurance if they had certain genes predisposing them to certain diseases or being sidetracked professionally if employers got hold of genetic information.

In the United States, several lawmakers have introduced bills to deal with some of these issues, particularly access to health insurance, but none has become law.

The activists were represented at a news conference in Washington sponsored by the Foundation on Economic

Trends, which is campaigning against biotechnology companies' ability to patent genes. Joining them were some women who have taken the test to see if they have the BRCA1 gene, linked to breast and ovarian cancer.

"Human genes are not for sale or profit," said noted feminist activist and breast cancer survivor Bella Abzug.

"Legislation must be enacted that specifically protects the privacy and confidentiality of a patient's medical record and bars discrimination against any individual who undergoes genetic testing," said Ms. Abzug, a former U.S. congresswoman.

Foundation President Jeremy Rifkin said in an interview the gathering represented the "birth of the genetic rights

movement."

He said women should have the option of taking genetic screening tests without having to worry about losing privacy, insurance or employment.

The BRCA1 gene, one of two so far linked to breast and ovarian cancer, has posed particular problems in medical ethics. Women carrying a mutation of the gene have an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer, but scientists do not know what sets apart the 15 per cent that do not.

Not all women's groups oppose patting genes. Some believe it will help bring more money in for research and possible cures.

'Antibiotics may treat gum disease'

WASHINGTON (R) — People with gum disease may be able to use antibiotics to avoid surgery and tooth extraction, according to a new study released Monday.

The research, backed by the National Institute of Dental Health, found that scaling and deep cleaning of the teeth and gums, combined with short-term antibiotics, dramatically reduced the need for gum surgery and extractions.

The drug treatment also spared 690 of the 783 teeth originally recommended for surgery or extraction, according to the research carried out at the University of Michigan School of

Dentistry and the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry.

Periodontal surgery usually entails lifting back the gums, removing the hardened plaque buildup, and then stitching the gums back in place. It is painful and expensive.

Ninety patients with advanced gum disease were studied.

They were divided into three groups — one receiving the antibiotic Metronidazole, one receiving Doxycycline and one receiving an oral placebo.

Depending on the severity and extent of their gum disease, patients could receive up to five rounds of treatment, two oral and three local

applications of the drug. Once they improved, they were put on a maintenance programme with cleanings every three months.

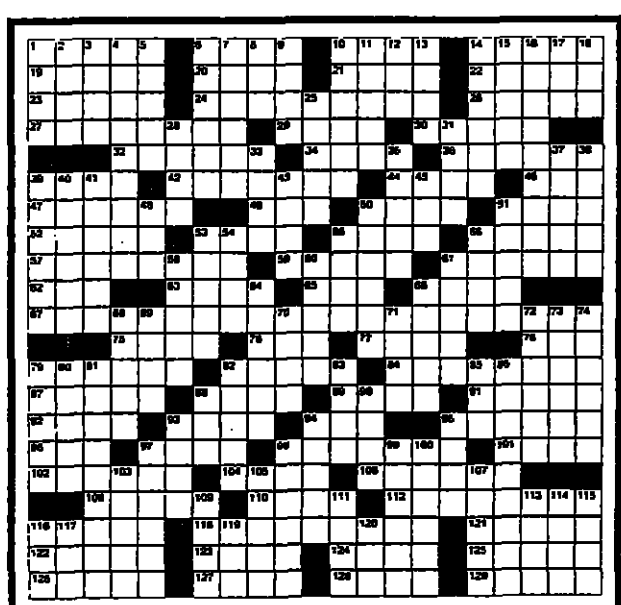
Only two patients did not respond to treatment, but they had extreme periodontal conditions and had faced extraction of all their teeth. Overall, the treatment reduced the need for surgery by 93 per cent. A follow-up after one year showed that the benefits from the drug treatment had continued, the study found.

The study was reported in the May issue of the Journal of Oral Surgery.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MIS-INFORMATION
By Marian A. Baran

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 2. Short eared
 3. Clutch
 4. First pilot
 5. Course curtain
 6. —
 7. A clutch
 8. First
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 10. Source State city
 11. Left temporarily
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 13. Star of Durr
 14. White acid
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 19. Cluttered
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THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

A community is like a ship: everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm.

— Henrik Ibsen, Norwegian dramatist and poet (1828-1906)

No one is such a liar as the indignant man.

— Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher (1844-1900)

The life of the nation is secure only while the nation is honest, truthful, and virtuous.

— Frederick Douglass (C. 1817-1895)

Never lose your temper with the press or the public is a major rule of political life.

— Dame Christabel Pankhurst, English suffragist (1868-1958)

The only joy in the world is to begin.

— Cesare Pavese, Italian novelist (1908-1950)

Culture is on the horns of this dilemma: If profound and noble it must remain rare, if common it must become mean.

— George Santayana, Spanish-born philosopher (1868-1952)

As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater than the demand.

— "Josh Billings" (Henry Wheeler Shaw), American author (1818-1885)

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Elevated, barren regions in Northern Russia and Siberia.
2. Jacob.
3. Bowls.
4. When the ball of one golfer obstructs that of another player on a hole.
5. A period of play during a polo match.
6. C. a cat-like animal.

PUZZLES

(A) TRAWLER

He sold 10s. worth of pineapples at 3 tins for 6d. 60

tins.

He sold 80s. worth of peaches at 3 tins for 6d.

48 tins.

He sold 7s. worth of apricots at 3 tins for 6d.

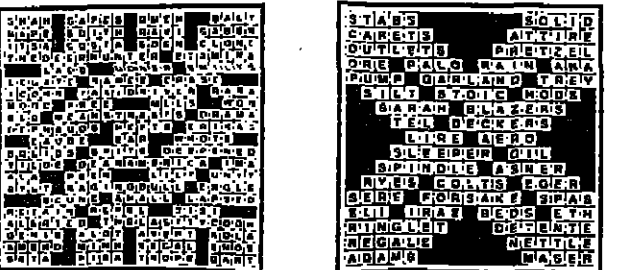
42 tins.

Diagramless, 19x19

By Daniel J. Reed

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SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Talking parrot teaches some poor old folks in nursing home a few curse words.
2. Fussy great-grandfather says he is not really old, but when he was a boy, birds had leather wings.
3. Campus caretaker complains about unknown bellies peeling in college clock tower.
4. Student cuts grammar class and says, "It surely ain't the fondest thing I'm of."

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CKTTD QSLAEJZBG LXGBRZJ CXJ
AKGRCXP QSL TKGELXP XS EXSSD.
— By Earl Ireland

2. LIKEUAEKNOEWA PA UPBR CPBL UPVEOC
SPORT ANYWN EW ONA WRECKART
NUONIENGW. UGA BNLT WN.
— By Ed Huddleston

3. PXE ZPIEM SPUDUP BY NIWKAR IS NT
HAWT AWDUBZ SBZUIWA UINA BE MBY
UAXABYBPK.
— By E.C. Doyle

4. UXP DFPH "BIGIG" VPY HPA SKOORLE KL
RUG XPYZ OKRH PY BIGGY DLZ PZZ
RAGOOKLER?
— By Duane B. McGee

Jordanian population will be 5.7m in 1996, U.N. report says

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's population will reach 5.7 million by the year 2005, predicts the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in its 1996 State of World Population Report released Wednesday.

According to the report, Jordan's population by the end of 1996 will stand at 5.7 million, with 72 per cent residing in the country's urban areas, well above the regional average of 66 per cent.

The Kingdom's average natural population growth rate, one of the highest in the world, is estimated at 3.3 per cent for the years 1995-2000, with urban population growth surpassing that figure at 4.1 per cent. Only Syria, Yemen, and Oman will exceed Jordan's urban growth.

These were some of the startling revelations of Jordan's and the world's population disclosed in the report, entitled, "Changing Places: Population, Development and the Urban Future."

The release of the report was accompanied in Jordan by a ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, who called the report "of paramount importance as it monitors developments in

the civilised world where, although civilisation contributes to meeting the requirements of growth and progress, it creates major problems that prevent the achievement of sustainable and balanced development."

"It also impedes attempts to improve the quality of life and triggers social conflicts, adversely affecting the environment," she said.

The report introduced the question of whether increasing urbanisation will improve the lives of the world's citizens, or will it bring increasing human misery?

According to the report, 1.7 billion people in developing countries live in urban areas. They constitute half of the world's urban population, and nearly half of them do not have the means to meet their basic needs.

Nearly all urban population increase will be in today's developing countries, the report says. They will account for 92.9 per cent of a 2.06 billion increase in the global urban population between 1970 and 2020.

The UNFPA attributes this burst in urban population among developing countries to migration from rural to urban areas. The report states

that migration accounts for "some 40 per cent of urban growth."

At the same time, reports UNFPA, rural populations are becoming more involved in meeting urban needs, responding to urban priorities, and capitalising on the opportunities that cities present.

Rural populations, it said, are becoming urbanised themselves in their daily lives, their expectations, their social organisation and value systems.

The agency has also begun to study trends in women's migration patterns and reports that women tend to migrate as much as men, but travel a rougher road.

According to UNFPA, women migrate between the ages of 15 and 24 or 50 and late 60s. Older women are looking for security, and tend to be widows or divorcees. Younger women tend to be job searching. It reports that young women migrants may also be expressing increasing independence in choosing a husband.

A third to one half of women migrants find jobs in domestic or personal service, sales or are employed by others. Less than one quarter of them are employed in blue or white collar formal jobs.

Young Jordanians, affected by terror in Lebanon, assess future of peace with Israel

By Alia Toukan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It has been said that peace between Arabs and Israelis should be fostered among the younger generations. More than four weeks after the end of the Israeli attacks on Lebanon, however, it appears that the latest flare-up in the Middle East has left a significant impact on Jordanian youths' perceptions of Israelis, as well as peace between Jordan and Israel.

The scale of the assault on Lebanon, the killing of Lebanese civilians, the Cana massacre, and Israel's refusal to take blame for the carnage have left a profound negative impact on the younger generation of Jordanians that will be difficult to reverse, say analysts.

The depth of feelings held by the younger generation must not be underestimated, according to Sociology Professor Musa Shtewi of the University of Jordan. "Over 70 per cent of the Jordanians are under the age of 30, and they will be the ones who will eventually make or break peace with Israel," he said.

"I will never forgive (Israel) or forget what happened in Lebanon," maintained Dana Annab, a 17-year-old student from the New English School. "What the Israelis did in Lebanon was pure terror-

ism. There is absolutely no way I can understand it," she said.

Sociology Professor Sari Nasir of the University of Jordan said that what is becoming apparent is a hardening of attitudes towards Israelis by Jordanians in general, and particularly the younger generation, who witnessed Israel's latest indiscriminate violence against Arab civilians.

"What affected me most about Lebanon was the fact that those killed by the Israelis were predominantly civilians and innocent children," said Maisa Issa, a 19-year-old employee at the University of Jordan. "I am still for peace between Jordan and Israel, but what happened in Lebanon added to my animosity and bitterness towards the Israelis," she added.

Following the signing of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in October 1994, Jordanians wanted to see a "new" Israel that genuinely sought peace with Arabs, said Dr. Shtewi. "But after the attacks on Lebanon, this 'new' image was shattered. Israeli actions were viewed as belonging to the pre-peace era," he explained.

Faris Breizat, a 24-year-old student at the University of Jordan, asserted that over the past year, in particular, he was beginning to feel some seriousness on the part of Israel towards peace with Arabs. "But

since Lebanon," he said, "my view has been that, for the Israelis, the issue is not about peace, but about domination."

Soon after the Israeli assault on Lebanon began, prior to the Cana massacre, Dr. Shtewi asked more than 100 students if they thought that Israel was sincere in its peace with Jordan. Only 18 per cent said yes.

Dr. Shtewi attributed the response to the perception that Israel disregarded Jordanian public opinion and reaction to the attacks on Lebanon. He doubts that there has been much change in that attitude since.

The fear is that this generation is harbouring feelings of anger and bitterness towards Israel — much like sentiments previously expressed by their parents. "Younger Jordanians have two minds about peace with Israel — one reflecting the views expressed by their parents, and the other reflecting the new reality being dictated by the peace process," said Dr. Nasir. "After Lebanon, especially, these people started to feel that the two differing viewpoints cannot be reconciled, and that their parents were wrong," he explained.

The dilemma, affirmed Dr. Shtewi, is that "the feelings that prevailed during the recent crisis are still unchanged because no efforts have been made on the Israeli side to change them." The closure of the

West Bank and Gaza Strip, he added, is still in effect, which also fuels anti-Israeli feeling among people.

Publisher and columnist Rami Khouri said that if Israel takes positive initiatives towards Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, then the prevailing perceptions of Israel and the peace process will start to improve among the younger generation of Jordanians.

He added, however, that this generation is unlikely to forgive Israel, or to forget the recent events. "Lebanon has left a residue of negative feelings against Israel that will not necessarily be overcome," he said.

A recent poll conducted by the Journalism Department at the Yarmouk University, however, has found that 78 per cent of Jordanians support peace between Arabs and Israelis, while 63 per cent of those polled think that relations between Jordan and Israel will develop and improve should Labour win the Israeli elections. These statistics suggest that peoples' perceptions regarding the peace process have not been permanently affected by the attacks on Lebanon.

Indeed a young Jordanian businessman said that his views had not been altered by the recent events in Lebanon. "I have already forgotten what happened, and I have not changed my opinions regarding the

Israelis, or peace with them," he told the Jordan Times, requesting anonymity.

The recent events are not necessarily a permanent setback. "If things change on the ground and Israel shows better intentions through its actions, then the younger generation will start to feel better about Israelis and the peace process," maintained Dr. Shtewi.

Dr. Nasir contended that it is difficult to predict how lasting the latest impressions will be on young Jordanians. "Lebanon will be difficult to get over, but the damage may not necessarily be permanent," he said.

In the meantime, however, the analysts agree that Jordanian youths will continue to assess their perceptions of Israelis and the peace process following the recent events in Lebanon.

"I never believed in peace between Israelis and Arabs, but with time, I learnt to accept it," affirmed Laith Masri, an 18-year-old from the New English School.

And how does he view peace with Israel now?

"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," he said after a long pause. "I am not saying we should commit the same violent acts against them, but I think we should let them know exactly how we feel about their behaviour and the peace process."

War crime sleuths launch Srebrenica investigations

KONJEVICI, Bosnia (R) — A team of six international war crimes investigators began examining the surface of an overgrown field in eastern Bosnia on Wednesday, in the hunt for clues to help convict indicted war criminals.

The team is trying to find evidence for the prosecutions of Bosnian Serbs allegedly involved in the 1995 massacre of at least 3,000 unarmed Muslim men from Srebrenica, a U.N.-declared "safe area."

In the field several metres below Ruad-level, four of the sleuths began picking through the tall weeds and grass, while one used a metal probe designed to detect human remains.

Thickly wooded slopes towered over the site and 25 U.S. peace implementation force (IFOR) troops stood guard in the freezing drizzle.

An IFOR spokesman told watching reporters that army engineers had checked the site earlier in the day, searching for mines and booby traps.

"We want to make perfectly sure the area is safe for them to work," he said.

The investigating team includes three Americans, one Frenchman, a Briton and a Pakistani. All declined to be named or to specify their jobs, although at least some are believed to be forensic experts.

The site is about 25

kilometres north-west of Srebrenica — the Muslim enclave under the "protection" of U.N. peacekeeping troops that Bosnian Serb forces overran last July in an offensive that sparked international outrage.

Apart from the 3,000 Muslims believed massacred after surrendering to the Bosnian Serbs, thousands of others are still missing, their fate unknown.

The field under investigation lies on the route many Muslims used to flee the onslaught.

The bombed-out remains of Muslim villages and settlements dot the surrounding hills that are covered in forests where the Muslims tried to hide.

The clues the six investigators were seeking could prove crucial in supporting the verbal evidence from survivors who are due to testify in the war crimes tribunal in the Hague.

Those indicted for involvement in the Srebrenica massacres include Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Bosnian Serb leaders have been split by international pressure for the ouster of Karadzic, Bosnian Serb sources said.

Senior envoys of the Bosnian Serb government met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic in Belgrade on Monday and Tuesday to discuss Mr. Karadzic's future

but failed to agree.

The United States has threatened to reimpose economic sanctions on rump Yugoslavia unless Mr. Milosevic extradites Mr. Karadzic and Bosnian Serb army commander General Ratko Mladic for trial by the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague.

The sources said the Bosnian Serb leadership and Mr. Milosevic discussed whether Mr. Karadzic should step down unconditionally — as demanded by the Bosnian Peace agreement — or whether strings should be attached to his removal.

Despite their disagreement, there was no sign the Bosnian Serbs were ready to compromise on their refusal to surrender either Mr. Karadzic or Gen. Mladic to the U.N. court.

Thb West believes that getting Mr. Karadzic to the Hague is the only way of guaranteeing that he will be unable to continue undermining the peace process and Bosnian elections in September.

Bosnian Serb sources said "vice-president" Nikola Koljivic favoured Mr. Karadzic's removal from office.

Hardliners Biljana Plavsic, another "vice-president" to whom Mr. Karadzic has ceded some of his authority, and "parliament speaker" Momcilo Krajinovic opposed his unconditional resignation.

Peres won premiership — exit polls

(Continued from page 1)

at headquarters of Likud in Tel Aviv.

Pizza parlours offered freebies to diners who correctly predicted the outcome, and many Israelis spent their day off in shopping malls, restaurants and at beaches after casting their votes.

Still, many voters said they did not make the decision lightly.

"People know it's a critical moment for the country," said Mayil Danovich, casting her vote for Mr. Peres in Jerusalem's heavily pro-Netanyahu Mahane Yehuda neighbourhood.

Mr. Netanyahu's militancy frightened her, she said. A Likud supporter walked by the Labour Party campaign desk Ms. Danovich was staffing and shouted, "shame on you Peres is an Arab."

"My vote will influence the world," Ms. Danovich said, unfazed. "But it is for Israel first."

The change in Israel's relations with the Arabs since Labour returned to power in 1992 has been so fast-paced that some Israelis believe it is time to slow down and reassess.

U.S. President Bill Clinton

stole a starring role in the Israeli elections after coming out clearly in favour of Mr. Peres.

Mr. Clinton said on the eve of polling that Israeli voters "have to make the decision whether they want to pursue the peace process or not," clearly indicating that a vote for Mr. Netanyahu and his nationalist camp would end the process.

The intervention was the topic of polling station comments by both candidates, with Mr. Netanyahu choosing not to publicly confront the powerful American ally.

"I interpret the statement of President Clinton as a call to support the peace camp, that is to say the right-wing which I lead," Mr. Netanyahu said.

"My policy will be to pursue the peace process, to ask for mutual respect and reciprocity," he said. "I think that all our interlocutors in the Arab World can be our partners for peace on this basis."

Mr. Peres, who has received numerous expressions of strong support from the U.S. leader in the run-up to the elections, responded modestly, calling Mr. Clin-

ton "a great man, domestically and internationally."

Leading right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon accused the United States of dealing with Israel as if it were a "banana republic" by backing Mr. Peres.

President Clinton has resorted to coarse and insulting interference in the internal affairs of Israel, making it look like a banana republic," charged Mr. Sharon, a key Likud figure and former defence minister.

"The American president is promising aid to Israel if its residents vote for what he wrongly calls the peace camp," he said. "We must reject with contempt this unprecedented interference."

The campaign and election day itself were overshadowed by the threat of violence. Militants, who set off four suicide bombings this spring in hopes of wrecking Mideast peacemaking, threatened more attacks before the vote.

Troop reinforcements were sent to roadblocks to enforce a blockade of the West Bank and Gaza, and 26,000 police and soldiers — triple the number normally on patrol — were deployed throughout Israel.

Israel's secret service received fresh warnings over the past 24 hours that Jewish extremists planned to harm Mr. Peres. As a result, the prime minister cancelled some appearances election day Wednesday and increased his bodyguard detail.

Mr. Peres' predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, was assassinated in November by a right-wing Israeli opposed to the government's policy of trading land for peace with the Arabs.

Mrs. Rabin's widow, Leah, urged Israeli voters Wednesday to keep the peace process alive. "We have to continue his legacy and I hope we

should win the election," Mrs. Rabin said. "If we don't, then the murderer has won and we don't want him to win."

The Arab League hailed as a vote for peace the elections.

"The Israeli have chosen to continue the peace process," said Said Kamal, the league's deputy secretary general for Palestinian affairs.

"Now the peace process begun in Madrid (in 1991) must continue on the basis of land-for-peace, as well as on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 calling for Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in 1967," Mr. Kamal told AFP.

Hariri assails Hizbollah

(Continued from page 1)

Tension with Iran

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi has acknowledged tension between Beirut and Tehran over the handling of foreign aid to rebuild the damage caused by Israel in Lebanon, according to an interview published Wednesday.

"It is inconceivable for Lebanon to be lenient on this issue," Mr. Hrawi told Al Nahar daily, in reference to a recent cabinet decision that all foreign aid to Lebanon

should be channelled through state agencies only.

"There are 12 difference religious communities in Lebanon. If each one relied on a foreign nation, ours would not be a country but a farm," Mr. Hrawi said.

Mr. Hrawi also voiced his "displeasure" with the visits to Lebanon by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Kazem Al Khonsari and his meetings with "various factions including (Muslim) fundamentalist groups."

Iraq 'has not set any conditions'

(Continued from page 1)

that the U.N. would adopt towards food and medicine exports to Iraq, and we have not heard of any political demand from Baghdad in this context," he added.

Adnan Qudsi, president of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, was quoted as saying in the local media that Iraqi importers would focus more on Jordanian sources.

He said he expected a considerable increase in Jordanian exports to Iraq once Iraqi oil starts flowing, probably in July, after arrangements are finalised under the deal reached with the U.N.

Jordan gets all its oil needs — about 70,000 barrels of crude and fuel oil — trucked overland from Iraq. Part of the oil bill is settled by Jordanian exports of food and medicine under an official protocol.

The Kingdom's imports of oil and exports of food and medicine to Iraq under an official protocol are not covered by the Iraq-U.N. deal.

Mr. Dajani said the Amman Chamber of Industry expected the bulk of Iraqi imports from Jordan, which will be paid for from the proceeds of the deal with the U.N. come from the Kingdom's private sector.

"The Jordanian and Iraqi private sectors have always maintained very good relations that are not hampered by any political development," commented Mr. Dajani.

His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday Baghdad should have accepted the oil-for-food deal two years ago.

"We are comfortable with the acceptance of the United Nations resolution," King Hussein told a visiting delegation of representatives from the Arab League.

"Finally, the decision was taken by the (Iraqi) leadership although it could have been taken two years ago to ease the suffering of the people," the King said.

Jordanian-Iraqi political relations took a plunge since August when the Kingdom gave shelter to defectors Hussein Kamel and Saddam Qasbi, his sons and wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The Kingdom, expressing concern over the mounting suffering of the Iraqi people under the sweeping international sanctions imposed against their country since August 1990, also stepped its criticism of the policies of the Baghdad government.

Jordan called for changes in Iraq to be brought about by Iraqis themselves but firmly opposed any threat to the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Relations turned worse when defectors Hussein Kamel and Saddam Qasbi returned home in February under a presidential pardon but were killed, along with other family members, according to official Iraqi reports, by their clan.

Since then Jordan has allowed the Iraqi National Accord, an exile group opposed to the regime, to open an office here and also gave shelter to Nizar Khazraji, a former chief of staff of the Iraqi army, who fled his country in March.

Jordan protested strongly when at least six Jordanians were killed in March and April in suspicious circumstances in Iraq and recalled its ambassador from Baghdad.

The envoy, Bassam Qasbi, has since returned to the Iraqi capital. In a meeting with Mr. Qasbi two weeks ago, Iraqi Parliament Speaker Sadoun Hammadi was quoted as saying Baghdad wanted to improve its relations with Amman.

Jordan is also the base of an American air force unit flying reconnaissance missions over southern Iraq for a two-

month period as part of U.N. resolutions adopted after the war over Kuwait.

Despite political differences with Iraq, Jordan maintained its economic ties with its eastern neighbour. It continued to receive Iraqi oil and supply food and medicine in partial settlement of the oil bill.

However, citing pressures on the foreign currency reserves of the Kingdom, the government has reduced the amount of exports to Iraq covered under the official trade protocol to around \$220 million in 1996 from around \$400 million in 1995.

The reduction is mostly applicable to products that do not originate in Jordan such as vegetable oil, which used to be imported and paid for from Jordanian reserves, repacked and exported to Iraq.

Commentators in the local media have been complaining that the reduction of exports to Iraq was a mistake, given that the Iraqi government subsequently signed the oil-for-food agreement, which allows for immediate payment for Iraq's food and medicine imports under United Nations supervision.

In a column in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Wednesday, Dr. Fahed Fanek, said despite everything Jordan stood to benefit from the Iraq-U.N. deal since the Kingdom did not cut off economic relations with Baghdad even at the

height of political difference.

"From a purely economic point of view, my evaluation of the (Kabarti) government is positive; not because it has done much in the economic field, but because what it did not do what we accused it of wanting to do," Dr. Fanek wrote under the headline "Economic accomplishments in 100 days" — a reference to the time in office so far of the Kabarti government.

"It did not break our brotherly relations with Iraq and it did not seek to exacerbate tensions with Iraq," Dr. Fanek wrote. Economic relations with Iraq continued to be normal, with the continued flow of Jordanian products to the Iraqi market and Iraqi oil to Jordan at half the international price, he noted.

"Had the government sacrificed Jordan's relations with Iraq, it would have sacrificed the real interests of Jordan for unrealistic aspirations," the usually well-informed economist wrote.

Jordanian official say strictly economic reasons were behind reducing the volume of the official trade protocol with Iraq. They point out that exports to Iraq far exceeded the cost of oil that Iraq supplied to Jordan and, as a result, accumulated debts of Iraq were getting too heavy for Jordan to shoulder.

According to officials, Iraq's debts to Jordan,

accumulated over the years during which Baghdad paid partially in oil for Jordanian exports, now stand at around \$1.3 billion.

The officials explain that Jordan could not continue to pay from its foreign exchange reserves for imports for the Iraqi market since the Kingdom itself was seeking to increase its reserves to meet with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) required level.

Furthermore, Jordan also wants itself to be in a position to be able to meet the eventualities of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) issuing its own currency, leading to demands on the Kingdom's treasury to redeem the Jordanian dinars in circulation in the Palestinian territories.

Libya to expel Palestinians

(Continued from page 12)

plant is the world's largest, and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry has repeatedly warned that a military strike is an option to stop it from operating.

"After this testimony by President Mubarak, I don't expect that anybody will raise the issue again," Col. Qadhafi said.

Mr. Mubarak has reportedly urged Col. Qadhafi to allow international inspec-

Moves pick up speed

(Continued from page 1)

Hafez Al Assad would visit Egypt soon as part of a drive to strengthen Arab solidarity.

"We are making a huge effort to restore Arab solidarity and for this we are in contact with the Gulf countries and North African states as well as the Syrian president who will visit Egypt soon," Mr. Mubarak told a joint press conference with Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Mr. Mubarak said he hoped his efforts would lead to "something concrete," without giving further details.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman is to visit Egypt on June 10, the Egyptian news agency

MENA said Tuesday.

According to the Egyptian press, the presidents of Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates, Elias Hrawi and Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, will also visit Cairo in June, after the three-way summit.

Iraq meanwhile called for an Arab summit aimed at winning an end to U.N. sanctions against Iraq, Libya and Sudan.

"The next Arab summit should debate the lifting of the embargo on Iraq, Libya and Sudan and reject the principle of imposing economic sanctions on people or normalising ties with the Israeli enemy," the official Al Thawra newspaper said.

do it," Mr. Mubarak quoted Col. Qadhafi as telling him during talks Sunday and Monday in Cairo, according to the Washington Times.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said Mr. Mubarak had not briefed the United States on his talks with Col. Qadhafi.

"Based on that report, obviously we're happy to read that Mr. Qadhafi says that he doesn't plan to go ahead with the chemical facility. We think that's the right decision, and we hope that his actions meet his words," Mr. Bacon said.

Iraq's sanctions-hit economy creaks under reforms

BAGHDAD (R) — Tough anti-inflationary policies have almost crippled Iraq's economy, already devastated by nearly six years of U.N. trade sanctions, the governor of Iraq's central bank said Tuesday.

Isam Hweish said Iraq, once in the grip of hyperinflation, now suffered from economic stagnation, causing unemployment and lower productivity.

He said the current economic ills began when Iraq decided late last year to wage a war against inflation. The decision to enter talks with the United Nations on starting limited oil sales early this year also played a role, he added.

"Following the decision to enter talks on oil a new state of stagnation took place which...has crippled Iraq's economy," Mr. Hweish told Reuters in the first interview with a foreign reporter by a central bank governor since the 1990 crisis over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Hweish said current economic reforms were in a way similar to those the International Monetary Fund (IMF) attaches to its loans along with their painful consequences.

He said despite sanctions

the state was trying to trim its huge obligations. To reform the economy, he said, Iraqi planners needed to prune the bloated state sector.

To combat inflation, which Mr. Hweish said reached 65,000 per cent at the end of 1995, the government launched a series of reforms last December. These slashed subsidies and set new consumer prices which took account of costs and profits.

"To withdraw excess money from circulation there must be a price for the services which previously were almost free," Mr. Hweish said. "Also subsidies have to be lowered to the minimum possible," he added.

The government is pursuing its reforms despite the hardship they cause. Taxes have soared and rates for services such as electricity, water, post, telephones have gone up to levels which many low-income people find difficult to afford.

Mr. Hweish described the economic picture in Iraq as "foggy" over the past six years and hoped the country's oil-for-food deal with the U.N. would add "some clarification."

Iraq last week accepted U.N. terms to sell oil worth \$2 billion in six months to

pay for urgent humanitarian needs.

The oil talks and government curbs on the money supply have sent the dinar currency on a roller-coaster ride. Traders, businessmen, and factory owners have put up their shutters. Only those dealing in essentials like foodstuffs are still active.

Since January the dinar has been hovering between 450 to about 1,000 to the U.S. dollar. It was 3,000 to the dollar prior to oil talks.

"Iraq is now passing through the most difficult economic circumstances," Mr. Hweish said. He said the plan was to lessen the dependence on government financing and rely more on the private sector which he expected to play a leading role in Iraq's economy in the future.

The government is selling factories, property, vehicles, machinery and farms to the public. But Mr. Hweish said its involvement in the economy was still enormous.

He said red tape and decades of total dependence on the state were hindering reforms. "Iraq's economy is not flexible. It has been based on the hegemony of the state in all sectors for about forty years," he said.

Donors learn from Mexico crisis and expand emergency bailout fund

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Leading donor countries have agreed in principle to double an emergency bailout fund to cope with economic crises like the one that shook Mexico in December 1994, officials have said.

The agreement effectively doubles the resources available under a current emergency line of credit from \$25 billion to about \$50 billion.

The accord, brings countries such as Australia, Singapore and South Korea into the group of nations contributing to the emergency fund to shore up the international monetary system in the wake of the Mexican crisis.

"This is a sound and prudent agreement," Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said in a statement.

"The arrangements are expected to be used only in exceptional circumstances and to support lending by the IMF only when borrowers are willing to take stronger corrective policy actions," he said.

Under the agreement, at least eleven countries will join the so-called Group of 10 (G-10) to provide the resources to the IMF.

The G-10, which is actually made up of 11 countries, consists of Belgium, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

These countries are joined under the accord by Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Norway, Singapore, Spain, South Korea and Thailand.

Officials said Saudi Arabia maintains a separate arrangement to provide about \$2 billion in association with the bailout fund.

The G-10, essentially a club of central banks, had initially strongly opposed accepting new members for fear this would dilute its influence. The new partners on the other hand insisted they should be accepted on an equal standing.

The compromise agreement gives the new partners "rights and responsibilities commensurate with their commitments," according to a statement by Mario Draghi, the director-general of the Italian treasury and chairman of the G-10 deputies.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1996

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) First thing this morning handle any long-time responsibilities which have been neglected and then get into the career activities which mean much to you with the assistance of interesting close friends who can give you advice.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Keep that outside promise which you have made early today, and later this evening you will be able to retire to the quiet of your study and plan how to become more successful through your efforts in the business world.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) One you get important career activities completed in the morning today, you will be able to go out on the town this evening with those individuals who can be of assistance to help you gain some personal wish.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Keep any promises you have made to your mate in the morning today, and then later this evening you will handle those outside business obligations which need quick attention and proper development.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take care of those home affairs this morning, and then later tonight get into outside career activities which are interesting and which can be most profitable if they are handled correctly and by the book.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Hang on to any situation today which can bring greater harmony between you and your mate. Be more practical in your business dealings, through the efforts of a knowledgeable individual who can be of assistance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Someone who is intrigued with one of your talents should be listened to at this time, thereby you will pick up some helpful advice. Concentrate later this evening on one particular desire and go after it with all enthusiasm.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You are a dynamic person today and you will be able to accomplish a great deal if you listen to some knowledgeable person and also get rid of obstacles in the path of your progress, so that you can be quite successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You should meet with a bigwig today who appreciates your ability to handle any business situation and who can be quite helpful to you. Don't stay up too late tonight, otherwise you could be later for important appointments.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be more concerned today with the needs of your loved ones, even if you are pressured to something business oriented. This evening you should treat them nicely so that there will not be any disagreements.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are so enthused today about showing your finest capabilities to the right people who can be off assistance that not a moment should be wasted in doing so. Later tonight is good for staying at home with your loved ones.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You may get some excellent ideas for your career activities today so be sure you jot them down on a piece of paper or in a journal so that you do not forget them, when the time comes for their use in the days ahead.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argentin

Unscramble 100 four-letter words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOU lost five pounds

WHAT SHE DROPPED AT THE SWANKY BEAUTY SPA.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's Jumbles: BIRCH SKIMP HAUNCH CORNEA

Answer: An expensive gas guzzler becomes this — A CASH MACHINE

The National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation and The British Council present

The Scottish

BATTLEFIELD BAND

Alan Reid-keyboard, guitar and vocals
Alistair Russell - guitar, cittern and vocals
Iain MacDonald - Highland pipes, flute and whistle
John McCusker - fiddle, whistle, accordion and keyboards

Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 June, 1996 - 8:00 p.m.
Philadelphia Hotel - Royal Ballroom

Ticket price: JD 7

Tickets available at:

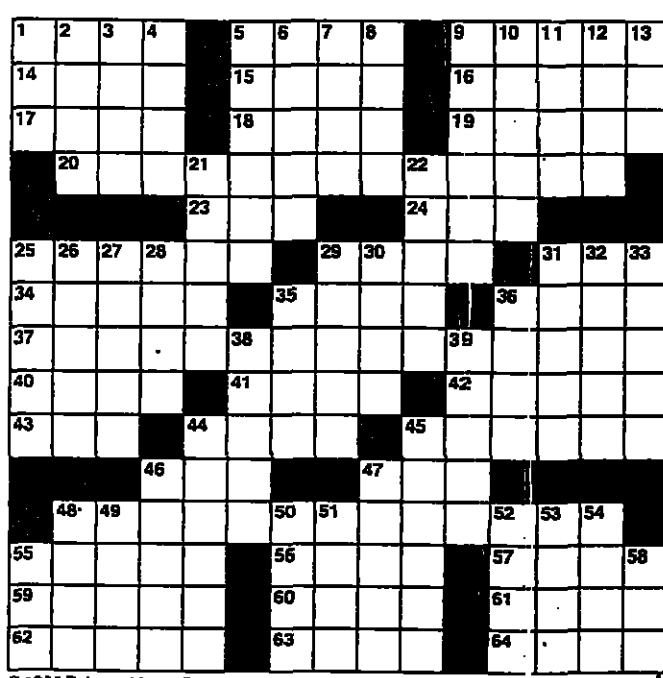
Al-Ahli Abela Superstore, tel. 688481
British Council, tel. 634147
Characters, tel. 07-927106
Music Box, tel. 815745
Romero, tel. 644227

Babiche, tel. 661322
Café Moka, tel. 856285
Freddy for Music, tel. 692696
Philadelphia Hotel, tel. 607100
National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

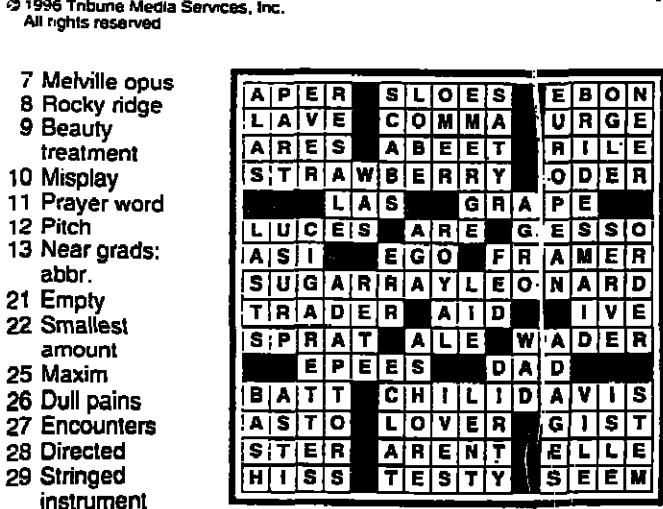
Freddy for Music

THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson

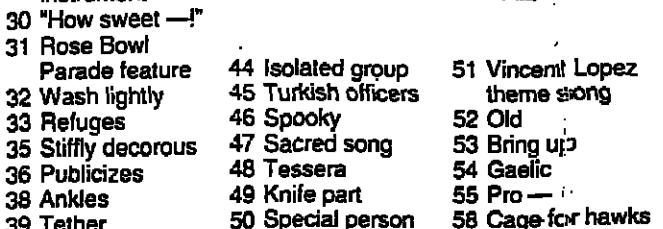
ACROSS
1 Oregano or basil
5 Clownish rustic
9 Acts of derring-do
14 Wings
15 Rickey component
16 Lancelot's fighting clothes
17 "— and tide..."
18 Medicinal plant
19 Salad maker's greens
20 Jungle royalty?
23 Actor Beatty
24 Plant spike
25 Venomous snakes
29 Glass container
31 To and —
34 Indian
35 The worst
36 Inter —
37 Football team
40 Head of France
41 Is sick
42 Obliterate
43 Hush-hush gp., once



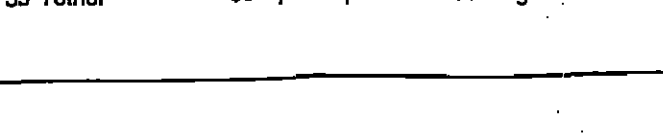
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1 Fedora
2 AKA Charles Lamb
3 Freeway area
4 Sudy beverage
5 Cutting edges
6 Lubricated



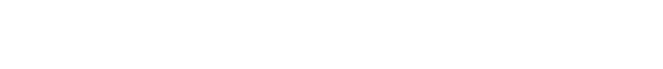
7 Melville opus
8 Rocky ridge
9 Beauty treatment
10 Misplay
11 Prayer word
12 Pitch
13 Near grads: abbr.
21 Empty
22 Smallest amount
25 Maxim
26 Dull pains
27 Encounters
28 Directed
29 Stringed instrument
30 "How sweet —"
31 Rose Bowl
32 Wash lightly
33 Refuges
35 Stiffly decorous
36 Publicizes
38 Ankles
39 Tether



44 Isolated group
45 Turkish officers
46 Spooky
47 Sacred song
48 Tessera
49 Knife part
50 Special person



51 Vincent Lopez theme song
52 Old
53 Bring up
54 Gaelic
55 Pro —
56 Cage for hawks



59 Vincent Lopez theme song
60 Old
61 Bring up
62 Gaelic
63 Pro —
64 Cage for hawks



65 Vincent Lopez theme song
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69 Pro —
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71 Vincent Lopez theme song
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137 Vincent Lopez theme song
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140 Gaelic
141 Pro —
142 Cage for hawks

143 Vincent Lopez theme song
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Enron finishes talk on Jordan gas plant

HAIFA (R) — U.S. energy group Enron Corp. has said negotiations for the formation of a joint venture to build a \$300 million regasification plant in the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba have been concluded.

Rebecca Mark, chairman of Enron Development Corp., told Reuters that negotiations with the Israeli and Jordanian partners on the joint venture agreement have been concluded, but that the agreement has not yet been signed because the final document needs to be drawn.

She said she expected the parties would sign the agreement in the next couple of weeks.

Partners in the joint venture are the Jordanian Near East Energy Co., owned by Jordan's Attalla family, and a consortium formed by Israeli energy companies Mashav, Dankner Group and Delek the Israel Fuel Corp. Mashav is jointly owned by Koor Industries and Clal Industries.

According to the agreement Enron will own 50 per cent of the venture, and the Israeli consortium and the Near East Energy Co. will hold 25 per cent each.

The government of Qatar gave Enron approval to market five million tonnes of liquefied natural gas (LNG)

annually, half to India and the rest to the Middle East from a planned joint venture in Qatar.

The regasification plant would supply Jordan and Israel with Qatari gas from the year 2001.

Enron and Israel signed a memorandum of understanding in October for the supply of two million tonnes a year of natural gas from Qatar to Israel.

Ms. Mark said Enron was still in negotiations with the Israeli government on the final purchase agreement.

She added that the joint venture is also considering building a 500 megawatt power

plant on the Jordanian side of the border which will use part of the gas.

She explained that it would be a combined-cycle power plant that would cost less than \$500 million to set up.

A group led by electrical engineering group ABB Asea Brown Boveri A.G. is also interested in building a \$1.6 billion to \$2 billion power plant in Aqaba, powered by natural gas from Qatar.

Ms. Mark said she expected the main buyers of the gas from Qatar would be the Israel Electric Corp. the Jordanian Electric Company and a consortium of Israeli companies.

Algerians urged to seek medical treatment in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Algerian newspaper "Le Soir d'Algerie" has published an article indicating that medical treatment in Jordan is much cheaper than any part of the world for Algerian patients.

The paper quoted Algerian Medical Union President Jamal Weld Abbas as saying that "the Algerian government is considering sending patients for treatment in Jordan due to the Kingdom's advanced level in medicine and the low cost of treatment at Jordanian hospitals compared with other countries."

Mr. Weld Abbas said: "If we take this step, we will decrease government expenditure by three to four times," adding that "the cost of a night at a Jordanian hospital is about 500 French francs (JD 70) while it rises to about 6000 francs (JD 800) at French hospitals."

He noted that during one year, the cost of treatment of Algerian patients abroad has reached 1200 million French francs.

Germany, Jordan to sign technical memoranda today

AMMAN — Memoranda concerning technical cooperation between Jordan and Germany in the fields of promoting the National Information System (NIS) and efficient use of energy in the Jordanian industry will be signed at the Ministry of Planning today.

According to the first memorandum, Germany will present technical equipment and advisory services worth nearly JD 1.5 million in extension of the NIS project which started in 1993, according to a statement from the German embassy Wednesday.

It said that the aim of the project is to support certain Jordanian ministries and departments in utilising information systems and data exchanges so that information and services can be provided in a coordinated manner in line with the users' requirements.

The second memorandum provides for the German government to promote the efforts of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) to find measures aimed at reducing specific energy consumption in Jordanian industry, according to the statement.

It said that the aid will be provided to the HCST in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) as well as the Jordanian industry.

To achieve that end, the German government will assign experts and supply technical equipment and control devices at the cost of nearly JD 500,000 according to the statement which noted that Germany will provide training to Jordanian personnel in the fields of efficient energy use for the fulfilment of the aims of this project.

Suez Canal nets record revenue for single day

CAIRO (AFP) — The Suez Canal, a leading source of foreign revenue for Egypt, has netted a record \$7.5 million in a single day, the chairman of the Suez Canal Authority has announced.

Ahmad Ali Fadel, quoted by Al-Ahram newspaper, said that Wednesday's receipts from 63 ships which crossed the Suez were an all-time high.

The authority reduced tariffs by 20 per cent at the start of the year after a drop in the number of oil tankers using the canal.

Revenue still rose

slightly in 1995, to \$1.95 billion from \$1.88 billion the year before.

Egypt is working to deepen the canal from 56 feet to 59 feet (18 metres) by the end of this year, to allow heavy tonnage tankers to use the canal instead of sending their cargo around the Cape of Good Hope.

Along with Suez, remittances from Egyptians working abroad, around \$5 billion a year, tourism with around \$2 billion, and oil with \$1.5 billion are the country's biggest earners of foreign currency.

DAILY BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Net profit of Jordan National Shipping Lines Company fall by 50%

★AFTER POSTING a JD 3.4 million net profit in 1994, the Jordan National Shipping Lines Company (JNSLC) was not able to generate more than JD 1.8 million last year. Despite the 50 per cent drop, the general assembly approved a recommendation by the board of directors to distribute dividends at a rate of 20 per cent and another recommendation to take out JD 750,000 of the voluntary reserve to settle an income tax payment. The main figures which appeared in the company's annual report showed JD 12.7 million in total earnings, JD 9.9 million in operational costs and JD 0.9 million in general and administrative expenses. The earnings were obtained from the following activities:

JD 423,560 from chartering three vessels to transport phosphate from Aqaba to India and other markets and one ship to the Arab Bridge Maritime Company — JD 317,949 in commissions from selling tickets for travelling between Aqaba and Nuweiba as the company holds the general agency for this function — JD 77,413 in return for services to maritime agencies.

JD 1.78 million in returns from various investments. Other figures showed current assets at JD 7.8 million (JD 9.4 million in 1994) and JD 21.7 million in total assets compared to JD 17.5 million in 1994. Total shareholders' equity stood at JD 13.3 million. Board chairman, Foteh Khamis told the shareholders that the company had introduced core amendments on its 1995 programmes to reflect the changes that occurred and which are expected in the region. The new strategy was to increase the activity and to concentrate more on bulk transport. Dr. Khamis said noting that this policy would be adopted for future years. He explained that the change was necessitated by the severe crisis faced by the company due to the sharp drop in the volume of goods arriving in Aqaba.

Furthermore, he said, the new policy was needed to prepare for the new reality coming to the region, and specifically affecting the transport sector, with the advent of peace. Another long-term strategy adopted by the company was to allocate a portion of the profit every year to a special account for the purpose of buying vessels, the chairman said. He noted that the purchase would be according to the capital-lease method which stipulates lease payments over a period of time leading to full ownership of the vessels. Dr. Khamis assured the shareholders that the company was marking out restructuring its operations to correspond to the circumstances and developments in the area and it was also trying to reactivate the far East-Red Sea route. He indicated that the JNSLC has prepared studies to this effect but the continuation of sanctions on Iraq and the circumstances that prevailed were restrictive to such a plan. However, Dr. Khamis said, the company is trying to reoperate the far East-Aqaba route through transporting bulk material to/from the region in addition to conducting studies to operate a line from South Africa to the Red Sea (Al Rai + Al Aswak + Al Dostour).

Merger between Business Bank and Jordan National Bank expected before end of 1996

★RAJAI MUASHER, chairman of the Business Bank, told the shareholders that the general assembly will be invited for an extraordinary meeting next month to decide on the merger with the Jordan National Bank. Noting that the discussions over the merger are at an advanced stage, Dr. Muasher expected an announcement about the merger to be made before the end of this year. The merger would create a new entity with more than JD 22 million in capital and JD 50 million in shareholders equity.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/05/1996										
LAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.3	1.56	6	400	8980	224.75	224.75	-
4,870	4,180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.8	3.15	4	7680	34182	4.47	4.45	-0.02
1,940	1,350	AL-JAWHAR BANK	12.1	2.17	1	18500	85100	4.60	4.60	-
1,900	3,250	BANK OF JORDAN	12.4	0.00	2	133	455	3.41	3.43	-0.02
1,590	1,020	MID-EAST INV. BK.	68.2	0.00	6	63000	67320	1.04	1.04	-
2,760	2,300	INDUSTRIAL INV. BK.	5.4	5.92	2	520	1232	2.37	2.35	-0.02
8,300	4,250	THE HOUSING BK.	11.8	2.12	6	2350	10394	4.42	4.43	-0.01
3,640	2,600	JOR. TRAVEL BANK	20.4	0.00	8	1246	1221	2.81	2.82	-0.01
1,500	920	JOR. GULF BANK	6.0	7.00	48	161310	160181	2.81	2.82	-0.01
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	19.1	0.00	9	6750	26835	3.97	3.98	-0.01
3,900	2,420	SEIT-AL-HAL (SEITHA)	1.8	5.34	2	286	718	2.80	2.81	-0.01
1,270	1,810	ARAB BANK INV.	18.1	0.00	57	69750	31357	4.48	4.47	-0.01
5,850	4,750	ARAB BANKING CO.	24.6	0.00	2	9287	43828	4.75	4.75	-
1,930	1,070	PHILADINIA INV. BK.	9	0.00	12	7300	8796	1.25	1.22	-0.04
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 178.63		CHANGE: +0.07		189		344297	503393			
3,450	2,700	GENERAL ARAB INSH.	86.0	0.00	1	100	270	2.70	2.70	-
2,910	2,350	JOR. FRENCH INSH.	6.6	0.55	1	100	1873	2.41	2.34	-0.07
1,370	2,600	JORDAN GULF INSH.	6.6	5.68	1	500	1478	2.98	2.98	-0.03
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 123.98		CHANGE: -0.35		6		1400	3618			
1,940	1,530	JOR. ELECTRICITY PBL.	11.1	7.90	29	17790	28455	1.59	1.60	-0.01
1,550	1,140	JORD. ELECTRICITY	8.7	0.00	1	4500	8150	1.56	1.60	-0.04
7,750	4,800	ARAB INTL. TRAVEL	17.0	3.00	1	100	500	4.90	5.00	-0.10
2,730	1,190	RETAIL POLYMER	9	0.00	4	1000	1595	1.45	1.45	-
1,160	900	REAL ESTATE INV.	21.1	3.35	2	2000	2271	1.94	1.95	-0.01
1,340	1,200	JORDAN TRV. INSH.	18.1	0.00	4	4000	3864	0.90	0.94	-0.04
3,660	3,090	ARAB INTL. INV. EDGO.	17.6	6.29	3	2000	6303	3.15	3.18	-0.03
1,540	980	SARFA EDUCATION	9	0.00	1	550	539	0.97	0.98	-0.01
2,540	1,870	UNIFIED CO.	11.2	4.69	28	16350	21429	2.09	2.13	-0.04
1,200	1,820	UNION LAND DEV.	8	0.00	13	16500	17495	1.06	1.07	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 117.27		CHANGE: +0.88		86		63540	98600			
4,100	3,390	JOR. COINVEST FACT.	19.8	2.89	16	11676	45882	3.49	3.46	-0.03
8,560	4,750	ARAB POSTAL CO.	14.3	3.70	3	1250	6750	5.35	5.40	-0.05
11,000	8,100	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	13.8	8.81	36	5182	67527	10.22	10.33	-0.11
8,800	7,100	JOR. WAREHOUSE	9.1	3.52	2	7012	69784	7.20	7.10	-0.10
5,820	3,660	ARAB PHARM. IND.	20.4	5.28	13	1796	6822	3.81	3.79	-0.02
2,880	1,620	ARAB INDUSTRIES	18.1	0.00	1	250	1748	1.70	1.71	-0.01
9,450	4,710	DAR ALADWA DY. INV.	15.3	3.57	2	500	3813	8.75	8.60	-0.15
6,360	4,650	ARAB ALUM. IND.	7.3	8.82	8	2550	11845	4.68	4.64	-0.04
740	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	0.00	50	142500	90098	4.64	4.62	-0.02
1,540	1,240	ARAB PAPER CONV. IND.	8.6	8.28	5	1750	2188	1.24	1.25	-0.01
1,020	1,100	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	7.69	1	100	769	1.32	1.30	-0.02
1,450	840	NATIONAL INDS.	12.6	7.06	12	13600	11476	0.85	0.85	-
2,840	1,060	INTERMED. PETRO. CORP.	9	0.00	86	40327	57748	1.41	1.42	-0.01
1,310	830	JOR. WOODWORK INDS.	8	0.00	3	1100	1216	1.08	1.11	-0.03
5,300	2,680	MATL. COLORED WIRE, NYAC	21.4	0.00	6	1000	3505	3.35	3.82	-0.47
1,840	950	JOR. BUILDING CHIM.	9	0.00	1	100	950	1.08	1.09	-0.01
3,420	3,090	ARAB PHARM. IND.	29.2	0.00	15	8890	9283	2.56	2.58	-0.02
2,420	2,380	UNIV. HOUS. INDS.	7.8	7.75	15	8890	9283	2.56	2.58	-0.02
2,420	2,380	JOR. INTL. PHARMACIES	20.6	0.00	37	19345	24974	1.63	1.64	-0.01
2,000	1,000	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	31.8	0.00	32	11280	13238	4.14	4.17	-0.03
2,580	1,890	EL-KAY READY WEAR	9	0.00	5	2100	3949	1.99	1.99	-
1,560	1,180	INTL. TOBACCO	30.4	0.00	20	12900	16882	1.28	1.29	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
INDEX: 115.93		CHANGE: +0.26		416		318204	470887			
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 146.97		CHANGE: +0.19		667		724441	1136497			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/05/1996										
4,480	2,290	MID-EAST FOR DEV.	9	0.00	5	1200	336	29	28	-0.01
1,880	700	JOR. TRADE FAC.	19.7	0.00	1	800	370	74	74	-
1,000	760	UNION INV. SOA	77.5	0.00	11	13000	4030	82	81	-0.01
1,590	630	ARAB PHL. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	12600	12600	78	77	-0.01
1,890	240	JOR. LIME IND. - JORDAN	9	0.00	22	26500	15881	60	62	-0.02
1,590	630	ARAB FOOD & IND.	9	0.00	7	5370	3735	70	70	-
1,960	1,380	MATL. COLORED	9	0.00	5	6150	9656	1.58	1.67	-0.01
1,890	520	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	1200	793	66	64	-0.01
1,100	700	MATL. COLORED - JORDAN	9	0.00	19	15450	11337	78	77	-0.01
1,230	800	JORDAN TRV. INSH.	18.1	0.00	7	3410	3206	0.96	0.96	-
1,030	670	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	6	785	346	69	69	-
1,850	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	10	1745	1709	1.24	1.23	-0.01
1,030	680	ARAB PHARM. 50%	9	0.00	14	27630	6431	74	73	-0.01
1,970	570	JORD. TRV. INSH.	20.0	0.00	8	3850	3918	0.60	0.59	-0.01
1,820	880	INDS. CEMENT	9	0.00	3	850	874	0.92	0.92	-
1,970	720	MATL. COLORED 75%	9	0.00	6	36800	17833	73	72	-0.01
1,500	700	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.4	0.00	13	7500	9438	73	72	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 146.97		CHANGE: +0.19		667		724441	1136497			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/05/1996										
4,480	2,290	MID-EAST FOR DEV.	9	0.00	5	1200	336	29	28	-0.01
1,880	700	JOR. TRADE FAC.	19.7	0.00	1	800	370	74	74	-
1,000	760	UNION INV. SOA	77.5	0.00	11	13000	4030	82	81	-0.01
1,590	630	ARAB PHL. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	12600	12600	78	77	-0.01
1,890	240	JOR. LIME IND. - JORDAN	9	0.00	22	26500	15881	60	62	-0.02
1,590	630	ARAB FOOD & IND.	9	0.00	7	5370	3735	70	70	-
1,960	1,380	MATL. COLORED	9	0.00	5	6150	9656	1.58	1.67	-0.01
1,890	520	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	1200	793	66	64	-0.01
1,100	700	MATL. COLORED - JORDAN	9	0.00	19	15450	11337	78	77	-0.01
1,230	800	JORDAN TRV. INSH.	18.1	0.00	7	3410	3206	0.96	0.96	-
1,030	670	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	6	785	346	69	69	-
1,850	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	10	1745	1709	1.24	1.23	-0.01
1,030	680	ARAB PHARM. 50%	9	0.00	14	27630	6431	74	73	-0.01
1,970	570	JORD. TRV. INSH.	20.0	0.00	8	3850	3918	0.60	0.59	-0.01
1,820	880	INDS. CEMENT	9	0.00	3	850	874	0.92	0.92	-
1,970	720	MATL. COLORED 75%	9	0.00	6	36800	17833	73	72	-0.01
1,500	700	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.4	0.00	13	7500	9438	73	72	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 146.97		CHANGE: +0.19		667		724441	1136497			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/05/1996										
4,480	2,290	MID-EAST FOR DEV.	9	0.00	5	1200	336	29	28	-0.01
1,880	700	JOR. TRADE FAC.	19.7	0.00	1	800	370	74	74	-
1,000	760	UNION INV. SOA	77.5	0.00	11	13000	4030	82	81	-0.01
1,590	630	ARAB PHL. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	12600	12600	78	77	-0.01
1,890	240	JOR. LIME IND. - JORDAN	9	0.00	22	26500	15881	60	62	-0.02
1,590	630	ARAB FOOD & IND.	9	0.00	7	5370	3735	70	70	-
1,960	1,380	MATL. COLORED	9	0.00	5	6150	9656	1.58	1.67	-0.01
1,890	520	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	1200	793	66	64	-0.01
1,100	700	MATL. COLORED - JORDAN	9	0.00	19	15450	11337	78	77	-0.01
1,230	800	JORDAN TRV. INSH.	18.1	0.00	7	3410	3206	0.96	0.96	-
1,030	670	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	6	785	346	69	69	-
1,850	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	10	1745	1709	1.24	1.23	-0.01
1,030	680	ARAB PHARM. 50%	9	0.00	14	27630	6431	74	73	-0.01
1,970	570	JORD. TRV. INSH.	20.0	0.00	8	3850	3918	0.60	0.59	-0.01
1,820	880	INDS. CEMENT	9	0.00	3	850	874	0.92	0.92	-
1,970	720	MATL. COLORED 75%	9	0.00	6	36800	17833	73	72	-0.01
1,500	700	MID-EAST COMPLEX	8.4	0.00	13	7500	9438	73	72	-0.01
GRAND TOTAL										
INDEX: 146.97		CHANGE: +0.19		667		724441	1136497			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 29/05/1996										
4,480	2,290	MID-EAST FOR DEV.	9	0.00	5	1200	336	29	28	-0.01
1,880	700	JOR. TRADE FAC.	19.7	0.00	1	800	370	74	74	-
1,000	760	UNION INV. SOA	77.5	0.00	11	13000	4030	82	81	-0.01
1,590	630	ARAB PHL. INVEST.	9	0.00	24	12600	12600	78	77	-0.01
1,890	240	JOR. LIME IND. - JORDAN	9	0.00	22	26500	15881	60	62	-0.02
1,590	630	ARAB FOOD & IND.	9	0.00	7	5370	3735	70	70	-
1,960	1,380	MATL. COLORED	9	0.00	5	6150	9656	1.58	1.67	-0.01
1,890	520	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	3	1200	793	66	64	-0.01
1,100	700	MATL. COLORED - JORDAN	9	0.00	19	15450	11337	78	77	-0.01
1,230	800	JORDAN TRV. INSH.	18.1	0.00	7	3410	3206	0.96	0.96	-
1,030	670	MID-EAST PHARM. 75%	9	0.00	6	785	346	69	69	-
1,850	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	10	1745	1709	1.24	1.23	-0.01
1,030	680	ARAB PHARM. 50%	9	0.00	14	27630	6431	74	73	-0.01
1,97										

Jazz overcome Sonics in overtime

SEATTLE (R) — Karl Malone had 29 points and 15 rebounds as the Utah Jazz staved off elimination with a gutsy 98-95 overtime victory over the Seattle SuperSonics in game 5 of the Western Conference finals Tuesday.

"Nobody gave us a chance to win this thing, we were fighting for our lives," said Malone. "I try not to read the newspapers but you can't help but see the headlines, 'stick a fork in 'em, they're done,' well, we ain't done yet. We're still cooking a little bit."

Game 6 is Thursday at Utah, where the Jazz are 7-1 in the post-season. However, Seattle won Game 4 at the Delta Centre and is 5-1 on the road in the playoffs.

"We did what we wanted to do. We wanted to go home," said Malone. "I guarantee we'll be ready to play in our place and try to force a seventh game here."

The winner of the series plays the Chicago Bulls in the NBA finals.

"We knew they (the Sonics) were already selling Bulls tickets and they had to play us," said Malone. Seattle, which erased a five-point deficit in the final 2:12 of regulation, had one last chance to tie in overtime after Jeff Hornacek, who entered the game with a 931 free throw percentage, made just one of two free throws with 7.8 seconds to give the Jazz a 98-95 lead.

After a timeout, Seattle inbounded the ball to Gary Payton, who missed a three-pointer from the top of the key.

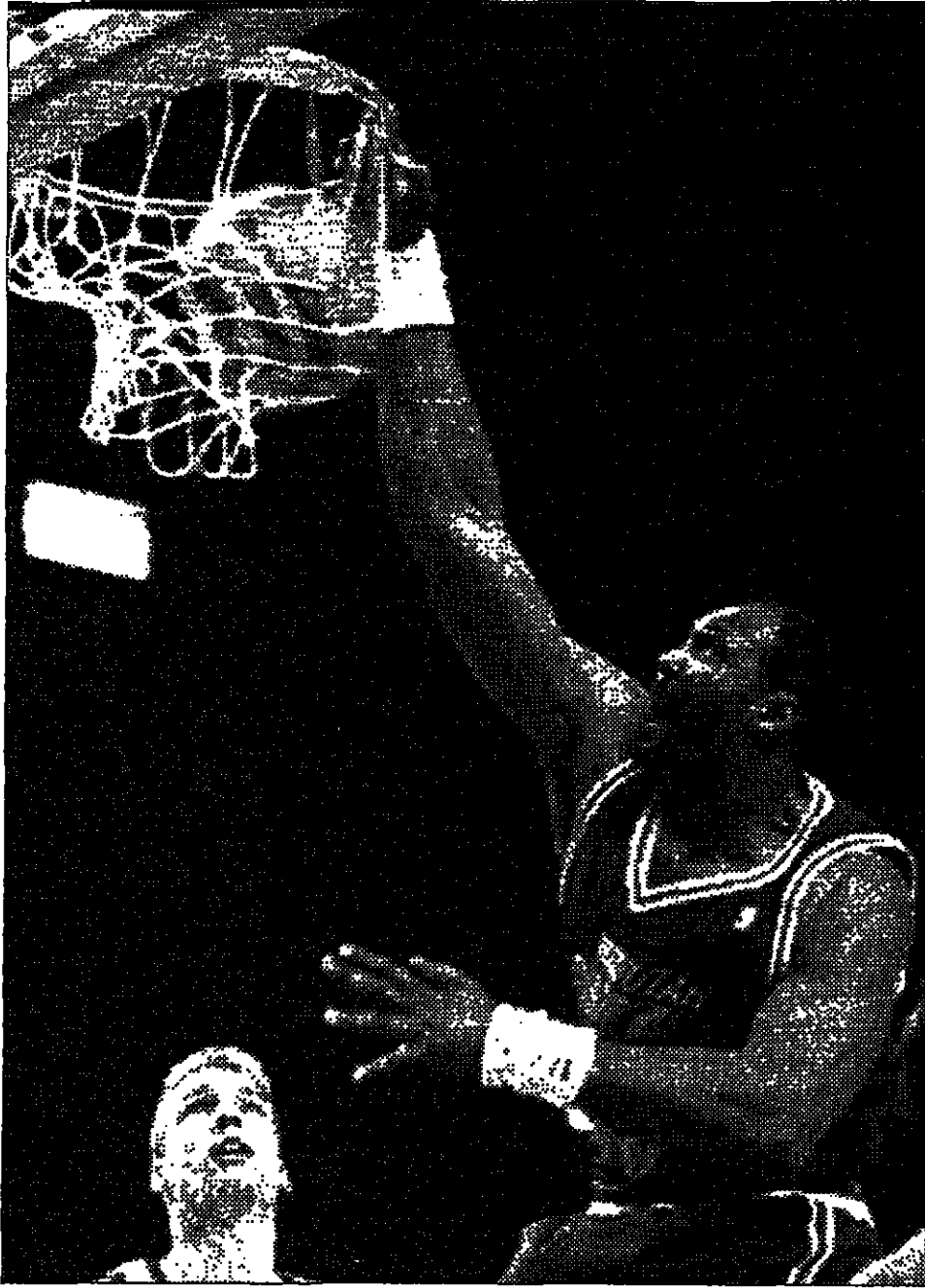
Payton, who played the final 11:01 with five fouls, finished with a playoff career-high 31 points and Shawn Kemp added 24 and 13 rebounds for Seattle, which committed four turnovers in the overtime. The Sonics blew a 13-point first-quarter lead and could not close out the series.

"We got a little tentative at the end," said Payton. "I don't know what the problem was, but that's just something that happens. It just makes our job harder."

Utah coach Jerry Sloan said Seattle helped Utah with turnovers. "We've had chances to win, and we haven't done it. Today we just got a little bit lucky."

Sonics coach George Karl said turnovers hurt but praised his team for pulling even at the end of regulation.

"There was a lot of pride out there to come back down



Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz goes for a slam dunk (Reuters photo)

five with very few minutes left and have a chance to win it," he said.

Hornacek added 27 points for Utah, which won a conference final game on the road for the first time in nine tries. The Jazz are trying to become just the sixth team in NBA history to erase a 3-1 deficit and win a best-of-seven series.

Utah's Antoine Carr opened the scoring in overtime, taking a feed from John Stockton in the lane to make it 92-90. Payton and Hornacek traded three-pointers before Payton converted a layup to tie the game at 95-95 with 2:48 to play.

Bryon Russell missed badly on a three-pointer, but Stockton got the rebound from the taller Kemp and was fouled. Stockton, who finished with four points, made both shots for a 97-95

lead. Hornacek's free throw was the last score of the game.

The teams traded turnovers and missed shots for two minutes until a 12-footer by Payton rimmed out. But he grabbed a loose ball after a mad scramble for the rebound and Seattle called timeout to set up another play. Payton got his hands on the inbound pass, but could not control it and Stockton tracked it down in the left corner, and the game finally ended.

With 2:12 to go in the fourth quarter, Malone's jumper gave the Jazz a 90-85 lead. Payton hit his third three-pointer with 95 seconds remaining to make it 90-88 and Kemp scored on Seattle's next possession, tying it with 28 seconds to go. Kemp blocked Malone's shot with 4.2 seconds left but Malone stripped Kemp

on the next possession.

The Sonics threatened to end things early. They led by as many as 13 points before settling for a 26-17 lead after one period as Payton scored eight points.

Kemp was limited by two quick fouls and Utah chipped away in the second quarter. Russell had nine points and the Jazz took their first lead at 45-43 on a three-pointer by Hornacek with 2:10 left in the first half.

Payton had 18 points in the first half but Seattle trailed, 52-49. The third quarter ended tied at 71-71.

Carr, who played 40 minutes off the bench, scored 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting. Russell, playing 45 minutes, was 4-of-13 from the floor, but finished with 15 points and seven rebounds. The Utah bench accounted for 38 points.

Weah keeps Liberia's World Cup dream alive

JOHANNESBURG (R) — World footballer of the year George Weah, whose native Liberia has been plunged into chaos by civil war, is leading a frantic campaign to keep the west African state's 1998 World Cup dreams alive.

Liberia are due to play a preliminary round first leg qualifier in the Gambia on Saturday, one of 15 matches this weekend marking the start of the continent's countdown to the finals in France.

The 29-year-old AC Milan striker is using the Ivorian capital of Abidjan as a staging post to cobble together a team for the match in Banjul. Radio reports say nine home-based players have travelled overseas to join their European-based compatriots.

And Weah, the 1995 African and European footballer of the year, wants the second leg of the tie, scheduled for war-ravaged Monrovia on June 15, switched to a neutral country.

The weekend's World Cup matches will test a host of new coaches.

Sampson Kablan, brought in to revive the Ivory Coast, takes his side to Brazzaville for a tricky tie with the Congo.

Kablan is hoping the return from injury of sporting Lisbon striker Ahmed Ouattara will re-ignite a forward line which disappointed in the African Nations' Cup finals in South Africa.

Kenya, who have notched up three recent wins in friendlies under Montenegrin-born coach Vojko Gerdasevic, face a difficult home tie against Algeria in Nairobi on Sunday.

The Kenyans, completed their preparations with a 2-1 win over Uganda in Kampala last weekend.

Uganda, who also have a new coach in Asuman Lubowa, host Angola, who have appointed former Portuguese international Manuel Gomes as manager.

South Africa are buoyed by the decision of Italian-bound defender Mark Fish to delay his departure to Lazio and join the squad for their trip to Malawi.

The African champions play in Blantyre on Saturday.

Perkins battles illness and lack of form

SYDNEY (R) — Once described by national head coach Don Talbot as "infallible and bullet-proof," Australian triple world record holder Kieren Perkins is battling illness and lack of form at exactly the wrong moment.

Since the Barcelona Olympics four years ago, Perkins has been the world's outstanding distance swimmer, amassing world records and gold medals by the sackful.

But at last April's national championships Perkins' world all but fell apart. He failed to make the final of the 200 metres freestyle and was comprehensively beaten in the 400 metres by his Melbourne rival Daniel Kowalski and 200 specialist Malcolm Allen.

Perkins, the Barcelona silver medalist, finished almost two seconds behind Kowalski's winning time of three minutes 50.60 seconds.

Under the rigid Australian selection rules only the first two qualified for July's Atlanta Olympics and Perkins made it clear after the race he would not be seeking any special dispensation.

"The past six or seven years, I have always been in control," Perkins said. "This time, I am not. It is scary and worrying."

Perkins' options were now reduced to the 1,500 metres and, under the sort of pressure he had never before experienced, the 22-year-old Olympic champion took the courageous option.

Instead of swimming for second place from the outset, Perkins tried to lead all the way against Daniel Kowalski, leaving open the possibility of fading in the latter stages and losing his Olympic spot to Glen Housman or one of his other rivals.

Perkins finally ran out of energy but did enough to take second place, although he was clearly struggling.

Seeking an explanation for a traumatic few days, Perkins underwent several blood tests. The diagnosis: a debilitating iron imbalance.

"It's not looking good, we are running out of time here," said a disconsolate Perkins.

"I'm sure that once I overcome this problem my training and performances will be back to where they should be and I'm looking forward to being as close as possible to my best when I defend my 1,500 metres title."

Well before the trials Australian sports commentators had been questioning Perkins' motivation and recent comments from the amiable Queenslanders have done little to quell the speculation.

"Throughout my swimming career I've

always wished I had a fast forward button so that I could just hit that button and get to the end of it," he said. "I wish it was all over."

Coach John Carew, who has guided Perkins' career since childhood, said: "Kieren is finding it harder to get motivated and I wouldn't encourage him to go on after Atlanta if he doesn't want to."

Perkins, a familiar face in Australia where he works as a part-time television journalist and endorses a host of products, took up serious swimming after an unfortunate childhood accident.

At the age of nine he fell through a plate glass door, severing the calf muscle in his left leg.

Swimming was considered the best therapy and Perkins was carried to the pool every day, dropped in the water and told to repeat muscle-building exercises.

By the age of 16 he had won a place in the Australian team for the 1990 Auckland Commonwealth Games where he picked up a silver medal in the 1,500.

At the 1992 Olympic trials he broke the 400 and 1,500 world records and after finishing second to Russian Evgeni Sadovyi in the Barcelona 400 final he triumphed in the 1,500, also in world record time.

Two years later he smashed two world records at the Victoria Commonwealth Games as the Australians swept all before them before going on to take gold medals in the 400 and 1,500 metres at the Rome World Championships.

Immensely popular with his teammates, Perkins has assumed the role of unofficial spokesman for his fellow swimmers, most notably on the burning issue of doping.

A fierce, articulate and outspoken critic of swimming's world governing body FINA, he has repeatedly called for a tougher stance against steroid use.

"It is quite obvious to me that FINA would prefer just to ignore the situation. They simply don't listen to swimmers," he said.

Feted by FINA in 1995 in recognition of his 1,500 world record at Victoria in the previous year, Perkins' reaction was typically forthright.

"It's quite amazing that they prepared to give an award to someone like myself for giving swimming a good image when they're doing everything they can to give it a bad one."

Such is the strength of his feelings, Perkins once volunteered to make a personal anti-drugs protest during the medal ceremony in Atlanta.

But the burning question remains. Can he still swim fast enough to win a place on the podium?

Cal Ripken homers 3 times, has 8 RBI

SEATTLE (R) — Cal Ripken set career bests with three homers, including a grand slam, and eight runs batted in as the Baltimore Orioles outslugged the Seattle Mariners 12-8 Tuesday for their 12th win in 16 games.

Ripken, rumoured to be moving to third base after nearly 2,200 consecutive games at shortstop, tied a club record for homers in a game.

Ripken fell one short of the team RBI mark, set by Eddie Murray in 1985.

Ripken doubled his season homer total and moved into a tie with Murray for the all-time club lead at 333. Brother Bill Ripken, Brady Anderson and Rafael Palmeiro also homered for the Orioles.

The Ripkens became the 16th brothers to homer in the same game and sixth to do so in the same inning, accomplishing each feat for a second time.

Anderson hit his seventh leadoff homer and 19th of the season. The American League record for leadoff homers is nine, set by Rickey Henderson with Oakland in 1986. San Francisco's Bobby Bonds hit 11 leadoff homers in 1973.

Reliever Arthur Rhodes (5-0) remained unbeaten by pitching 1 2/3 innings with three strikeouts. He allowed Ken Griffey Jr.'s 16th homer in the seventh.

Reliever Lee Guetterman (0-1) took the loss. At California, Chili Davis drew a bases-loaded walk with one out in the bottom of the ninth and Jason Grimsley tossed a five-hitter for his first career shutout as the Angels blanked the New York Yankees 1-0.

Kenny Rogers held the Angels without a hit until Garret Anderson led off the eighth with a solid single to centre.

Rogers (3-1) suffered his first loss since September 10, giving up one

unearned run and two hits with three walks and six strikeouts over 8 1/3 innings.

Grimsley (3-4) walked three and struck out three in his second career complete game.

In Milwaukee, Kevin Seitzer homered and drove in three runs and Matt Mieske added a two-run homer as the Brewers continued their dominance over the Minnesota Twins, 7-3.

Scott Karl (5-2) allowed three runs and seven hits over six innings as the Brewers defeated the Twins for the fifth straight time this season.

Ramon Garcia allowed one hit and struck out three over three scoreless innings for his first major-league save. The Brewers have won 14 of their last 18 games against the Twins.

Milwaukee snapped a four-game losing streak. Ron Coomer had his first career two-homer game for the Twins, who had a four-game winning streak stopped. Pat Mahomes (1-3) gave up four runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

In Oakland, Mark McGwire and Geronimo Berroa homered as the Athletics scored a 6-2 victory over the Boston Red Sox.

John Wasdin (1-0) allowed two runs and eight hits over 6 1/3 innings in his first start of the season. He struck out four and did not walk a batter as Oakland won for just the second time in six games.

Roger Clemens (3-5) gave up six runs and seven hits over four innings and had a three-game win streak end. He walked two and struck out four to fall to 9-11 lifetime against the Athletics, the only team against whom he is under .500.

McGwire, who entered the game batting .056 (2-for-36) against Clemens, led off the second inning with his 11th homer, his

sixth in eight games and the 9,000th in franchise history, which includes the Philadelphia and Kansas City A's.

At Texas, Dean Palmer homered and drove in four runs and Ivan Rodriguez hit a pair of homers as the Rangers won their fourth straight, an 11-3 rout of the Cleveland Indians in a matchup of division leaders.

The Rangers lead the Western Division by 4 1/2 games over the Mariners and the Indians had their lead cut to three games over the White Sox in the Central Division.

Rangers starter Darren Oliver (4-2) allowed one run — Albert Belle's major league-leading 21st homer — and five hits over seven innings for the win.

Belle needs one to tie the major-league record of 22 before June, set by Griffey in 1994.

Orel Hershiser (4-4) was tagged for six runs and eight hits over 1 2/3 innings, his shortest outing of the year.

In Toronto, Robin Ventura drove in three runs with a pair of homers and Tony Phillips and Ozzie Guillen added solo shots as the Chicago White Sox rolled to an 8-5 victory over the Blue Jays, their ninth win in 10 games.

Phillips, who earlier in the day appealed a \$5,000 fine from the American League, led off the game with a home run off Frank Viola (1-3). It was his second leadoff homer of the season and 23rd of his career.

James Baldwin (4-4) got a career-high eight strikeouts in five innings. Five relievers finished up, with Roberto Hernandez getting his 15th save.

Toronto lost for the 10th time in 14 games.

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Asian Champions Cup

Orthodoxi leave for Manila Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's basketball champions Al Orthodoxi Friday leave for the Philippines to take part in the 8th Asian Champions Cup which will be held in Manila June 2-9.

The delegation is headed by the club's vice-chairman, Rajal Sukkar and includes players Hilal Barakat, Jan Sahleh, Ziyad Nabulsi, Jack Koro, Fadi Sagga, Ashraf Samara, Naser Bassam, Mudar Barakat, Mahmoud Shaban and Daren Clayton.

Al Orthodoxi, who last year ended Al Ahli's three-year reign and reclaimed the Kingdom's first division basketball title, will be joining other Asian champions in the week-long competition. Orthodoxi officials said they were not yet informed by the Asian

Basketball Confederation of the other participating teams or the group draw.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Orthodoxi spokesman and delegation official Fadi Zureiqat said his club was adamant to represent the Kingdom in this Asian gathering and hoped the team would score positive results despite the snags they faced during their training programme.

Although Al Orthodoxi had an intense training camp, they were scheduled to meet Syrian and East European teams in the past two weeks to put their finishing touches on preparations and tactics. However, arrangements failed and Syrian club Al Wihdeh declined their earlier invitation at the final minute.

To make up for lack of matches Al Orthodoxi arranged two local matches.

They lost to Al Jazireh 78-68 Wednesday and were scheduled to play another match before leaving.

"We do not expect an advanced standing. The team has prepared well but we needed friendly matches. We lack the preparations in tactics which would have been achieved in serious friendlies but unfortunately that did not materialise."

Zureiqat said his team's participation in the Champions Cup would cost around JD 16,000. Fastlink were sponsoring the club's basketball teams last season and are about to sign a new deal by which Al Orthodoxi are expected to receive JD 8,000.

Last year Al Ahli represented Jordan in the Champions Cup and finished fourth among the eight participating teams.

EURO'96

United legend stunned by Cantona's omission

MANCHESTER (AFP) — Manchester United legend George Best believes France must have "one hell of a side" if they can afford to leave out Eric Cantona from their Euro '96 side.

While the biggest sporting event in Britain 30 years gets under way in 10 days time, United's Manchester midfielder, who won English football's player of the year last season, will be a mere spectator.

English fans were stunned by the omission of the inspirational force behind United's historic double triumph — and now Best his spiritual mentor at Old Trafford, has added his voice to the chorus of disapproval.

"France must have one hell of a side if Eric Cantona can't

even get in their squad," says Best.

"Eric is the main man at Old Trafford and that was recognised when he was voted footballer of the year."

"He makes the team play, all the kids look up to him, and I can't understand why there's no room for him in the French team." Best, English football's original wayward genius in the early 1970s, is full of admiration for the way Cantona returned from the eight-month ban on his infamous attack on a Crystal Palace fan last January.

The Frenchman returned from exile in October and immediately took it upon himself to guide the young team constructed by Alex Ferguson into football folk-

lore by lifting the premiership and FA Cup.

"He came through a rough time in the media — and deservedly so for what he did — but he took his punishment like a man and came back stronger," said 50-year-old Best.

"The biggest compliment I can pay him is to say that he would have fitted perfectly into the United side of the '60s," he added referring to the side which became the first English club to lift the European Cup in 1968.

"He makes it look so simple — that's the sign of a great player — and I just can't understand how France can leave him out, even though they have had a fantastic run."

No place for Sutter in Swiss squad

ZURICH (Reuters) — Adrian Knup and Alain Sutter, two of Switzerland's most experienced internationals, have been left out of the squad for the European Championship. Under coach Roy Hodgson, Karlsruhe striker Knup and Fribourg midfielder Sutter were instrumental in 1994 in the Swiss reaching the World Cup final for the first time for 28 years and then qualifying for the European Championship finals for the first time.

But new coach Arthur Jurgel opted for a more youthful blend when he announced his 22-man squad on Tuesday.

Knup, scorer of 26 goals in 45 appearances for his country, became expendable with the return to form of Borussia Dortmund striker Stephan Chapuisat who was sidelined for much of the season with a knee injury.

Sutter, considered by many as the best midfielder Switzerland has produced,

was capped 61 times. Jurgel, clearly looking ahead to the 1998 World Cup, has included Sebastian Jeanneret and Alexander Comisetti in his final 22.

Neuchâtel defender Jeanneret has been capped only once and Grasshopper midfielder Comisetti is expected to earn his fourth cap when the Swiss take on the Czech Republic in their final warm-up for Euro 96 on Saturday.

Danes blend youth and veterans in team

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark coach Richard Møller Nielsen opted for a mix of experience, personified by the Laudrup brothers, and youth on Tuesday when he named his 22-man squad to defend the European Soccer Championship.

Veterans who helped Denmark to become surprise champions four years ago include goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, striker Brian Laudrup, defender Lars Olsen and midfielder Kim Vilfort, who scored five goals in the qualifying matches this time.

Brian Laudrup, who will spearhead the Danish attack and his midfielder brother Michael of Real Madrid — the squad's captain but absent by choice four years ago — will play key roles.

Michael Laudrup ruled himself out in Sweden four years ago after a bitter conflict with Møller Nielsen over tactics and leadership style but he returned to the fold in 1993.

Young but tested talent includes defenders Jacob Laursen and Jens Risager and midfielder Michael Schjønberg. Strikers Stig Tøfting and Soeren Andersen, however, are both

new entrants to the national side.

Denmark, who have lost only one match in the past 17 months, are drawn in Group D with Croatia, Portugal and Turkey. They play their first match, against Portugal at Hillsborough, on June 9.

Denmark were drafted into the 1992 tournament only as late replacements for Yugoslavia, who were top in their qualifying group but were prevented from competing by the outbreak of war.

Squad: Goalkeepers — Peter Schmeichel (Manchester United, England), Lars Hoegh (Odense), Mogens Krugh (Brøndby).

Defenders — Thomas Helveg (Udinese, Italy), Marc Rieper (West Ham, England), Jes Hoegh (Fenerbahce, Turkey), Jacob Laursen (Silkeborg), Lars Olsen (Brøndby), Turben Piechnik (Aarhus), Jens Risager (Brøndby).

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French Open

Struggling Agassi ousted; Pierce, Hingis advance

PARIS (AFP) — Andre Agassi's dream of adding the elusive French Open crown to his Wimbledon, Australian and United States titles, disappeared for another year here Wednesday when he was shown the nearest exit by compatriot Chris Woodruff. The third-seeded Agassi, who must now be cursing himself more than ever for squandering his chances of winning the title back in 1990 and 1991 when he finished as runner-up, looked hopelessly at sea on the sun-bathed Suzanne Lenglen show-court as Woodruff took his chances and romped home 4-6, 6-4, 6-7 (7/9), 6-3, 6-2.

Unable to raise his game when he most needed to and making countless unforced errors (the official scorecard put Agassi's total at 63 while Woodruff made 29), Agassi slumped badly in the latter stages of the gruelling three-hour encounter. And after his win the 6ft 2in player from Tennessee, ranked a modest 72nd but fast-improving after reaching the finals at Philadelphia and Coral Springs this season, sat slumped in his chair with tears of joy rolling down his cheeks.

Woodruff now plays Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden or Frenchman Thierry Champion.

The 25-year-old Agassi, beaten in the 1990 final by Ecuador's Andres Gomez and by Jim Courier twelve months later, had been seeded to play his great rival Pete Sampras in the semi-finals. But although he won at Key Biscayne in Florida this season, Agassi had not impressed coming into the tournament.

His only appearance on clay saw him beaten in the second-round at the Monte Carlo Open by Alberto Costa. Before Key-Biscayne he lost in the first round at Memphis to compatriot Luke Jensen and then went out in the quarter-finals in Indian Wells to Michael Chang. And in his first-round in Paris Monday the warning signs were flashing when he dropped a set before beating little-known Spanish qualifier Jacobo Diaz. Agassi was the fourth men's seed to crash out.

Eighth-seed Thomas Enqvist of Sweden and 16th seed Malivai Washington of

the United States were beaten in the first round while twelfth-seeded Alberto Costa lost his all-Spanish second-round battle with Francisco Clavet on Wednesday. Clavet, who won the second-round match 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), now plays either Frenchman Guy Forget or Kris Gossens of Belgium.

Earlier Russian Davis Cup player Yevgeny Kafelnikov, a semi-finalist twelve months ago and determined to go further at this year, swept into the third round when he brushed aside Sweden's Thomas Johansson in straight-sets. "I feel physically good and confident. I finally found my clay-court game today," said the 22-year-old sixth seed. Kafelnikov, one of the hardest-working players on the tour, arrived in the French capital at the weekend having already played 43 official singles matches this season.

He was never seriously threatened by the 103rd-ranked Swede. Johansson, whose claim to fame this week came when he ended retiring Frenchman's Henri Leconte's career with a straight-sets centre-court victory Monday, was permanently wrong-footed by the depth and power of the fair-haired Russian's punishing groundstrokes.

Kafelnikov, winner at Prague and a semi-finalist in Hamburg, now plays the winner of the all-Spanish clash between Alex Corretja or Felix Mantilla. Only eventual champion Thomas Muster stopped Kafelnikov last year. Australian Scott Draper, one of the giant-killing sensations at last

year's tournament, was back to his old tricks.

The 21-year-old from Brisbane, who reached the last sixteen in 1995, came back after dropping the first set, to defeat Austrian clay-court specialist Gilbert Schaller 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. A year ago he also beat Schaller at the same stage of the competition in a five-set thriller — after Schaller had put out Pete Sampras in the previous round. Draper, who now plays French-based American 'bad boy' Jeff Tarango in the next round, was not short of confidence after his win and said he felt he could do even better at this year's tournament.

"Unfortunately I am not as fit as I was last year — I had a virus recently and I haven't been able to prepare as well as I wanted to — but I feel I can go five sets if I have to. I hope to get fitter as the tournament goes on."

Tarango, who hit the headlines when he stormed off court after abusing French umpire Bruno Rebeuh during a third-round match at Wimbledon last year, beat Franco Squillari of Argentina 6-4, 6-4, 6-1.

Other winners included Todd Martin and Renzo Furlan. Martin beat 31-year-old three-times champion Mats Wilander of Sweden 6-4, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 to earn a third-round clash against the winner of the day's star encounter between world number one Pete Sampras and twice-champion Sergi Bruguera. Furlan ended the run of New Zealander Brett Steven with a 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 win.

In the women's singles French hope Mary Pierce, a finalist two years ago and Switzerland's 15-year-old

marina Hingis came safely through their second-round matches — but in vastly contrasting styles. Pierce, who has slumped to 14th in the rankings after being the world's number-three player last year, was all nerves, grimaces and inconsistency in the bright sunshine when she faced 113rd-ranked 'lucky-loser' dally randriantefy of Madagascar on the new Suzanne Lenglen show court.

The 21-year-old-Candien-born French player, wearing her new black tennis outfit, looked as though she was at last going to recapture the sort of form which took her to the Australian Open crown in 1995 when she raced 3-0 clear. But then she suddenly went off the boil — hitting the easiest of strokes yards wide and failing to find any length on her serve.

Eventually she chalked up a 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 win leaving new coach Joe Giuliano looking a very relieved man. She now plays Barbara Rittner of Germany who defeated China's Jing Qian Yi — the player who put Jennifer Capriati out of the tournament on Tuesday.

Hingis, the junior champion here in 1993 and 1994

was a clockwork model of precision from the baseline and slowly but surely wore down plucky Petra Bergerow of Germany 7-5, 7-5. Hingis, who beat Steffi Graf on her way to the Italian Open final earlier this month, now plays either Nathalie Tauziat of France or Karina Habsudova of Slovakia for a place in the last sixteen.

Graf, Chang advance

Thomas Muster and Steffi Graf opened their title defenses with straight-set victories on centre court Tuesday, while Capriati bowed out in the first round to a Chinese woman playing only her second Grand Slam match.

The second-seeded Muster, showing no signs of the twisted ankle he suffered last week, pounded out a 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 win over Denmark's Frederik Fetterlein in just over two hours.

"I was very pleased going on the court with the memories from last year," Muster said. "Just coming back, playing on this court feels very comfortable to me. It's a great feeling to go out there and play again on stadium court."

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U.N. draws up huge Iraq plan

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. relief agencies are preparing for a huge aid distribution programme in Iraq following Baghdad's oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

The deal signed in New York last week allows to sell oil worth \$2 billion over six months and import food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies under strict U.N. supervision.

U.N. officials in Baghdad say Iraq needs to import hundreds of thousands of tonnes of food to feed its 20 million people with at least 2.1 million of them on the verge of starvation nearly six years after sweeping U.N. sanctions were imposed on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait.

Under the deal, the United Nations has to certify that the supplies are adequately distributed throughout the country.

In Iraq's three northern provinces controlled by Kurdish rebels, the United Nations will also be in charge of handing out the supplies.

"It is the first operation of its kind in U.N.'s history," said a senior U.N. relief official.

"The operation marks the first time WFP has monitored the distribution of commercial food imports bought by a government," said a World Food Programme (WFP) statement handed to Reuters in Baghdad on Wednesday.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh was quoted by newspapers on Wednesday as saying supplies from the oil-for-food deal would considerably raise the amount of rations in Iraq and also added new items to increase protein in Iraqis' cereal-based diet.

The WFP, the United Nations food aid arm, is to shoulder most of the responsibility. A WFP team is in northern Iraq to assess needs. Officials said the team was to

submit its plan on distribution of food and other requirements by mid-June.

Ayoub Al Jaloudi, officer in charge for WFP in Iraq, said WFP would soon send its director of transport and logistics to Baghdad to personally oversee the operation.

He said WFP also planned to "considerably increase its staff working in Iraq."

U.N. officials estimate that Iraq's imports of flour, rice and sugar could exceed one million tonnes in six months.

"Needs are so huge," said Amir Abdulla Khalil, representative of the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Iraq.

Iraqi trade officials have already gone to Vietnam, Indonesia and other Asian countries to secure the supplies.

But U.N. officials in Iraq warned that it would take some time before Iraq exported the oil and generated the revenue to pay for the supplies.

Mr. Jaloudi said until then must need Iraqis would still need U.N. rations and urged donors to replenish WFP's dwindling stocks in the country.

"What we have including supplies in the pipeline will only cover needs up to end of June," Mr. Jaloudi said.

Iraq will only be allowed to export oil when the United Nations agrees to its distribution plans, puts in place its complicated oil sales procedures and establishes a tough monitoring mechanism.

His Majesty King Hussein and Gen. Shalikhshvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to review over dinner Thursday night American military assistance to Jordan, which is expected to receive 16 F-16 fighter jets from the U.S.

U.N. officials estimate that it may be three months or even more before the first commercially imported food reaches needy Iraqis.

"Until then we will need 25,000 tonnes of food each month," Mr. Jaloudi said.

Since 1991 WFP has distributed more than 300,000 tonnes of food in Iraq at a cost of \$117 million.

Crown Prince urges increased government-private sector ties

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Wednesday urged the government to step up cooperation with the business community to increase and economic interaction with countries of the region and the world at large.

Addressing a meeting held at the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan for the evaluation of the performance of the Jordanian economy, the Crown Prince said: "We have to pursue research and dialogue to reap fruitful results and we have to involve the youth and university students in this endeavour."

"We should establish a data base which can provide information about the situation in the Jordanian market and draw up plans for the distribution of wealth and re-



sources equally to the various regions," Prince Hassan added.

"Jordan can achieve success if it adopts a well-planned economic policy that would offer incentives for the private sector to increase its investments on the one hand and allow for training of the

work force on the other," added Prince Hassan.

"The phosphate in the south and potash and other minerals of the Dead Sea should get our best attention and should be able to help us finance new projects," the Crown Prince said.

He urged state-run and private universities to invest in technology and develop scientific research that can help the country's overall development.

Taking part in the meeting and discussions were participants of the centre's seven workshops three months ago along with other experts and students. Also attending were advisors to the Crown Prince, Minister of Interior Awad Kheifati, the centre's director and university professors as well as businessmen.

Shalikhshvili arrives in Amman today for talks on U.S.-Jordan military ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The top American military officer, General John Shalikhshvili, arrives here today for a one-day visit during which he would hold talks on Jordanian-American military cooperation and visit a U.S. Air Force unit engaged in training exercises and flights over southern Iraq.

His Majesty King Hussein and Gen. Shalikhshvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, are expected to review over dinner Thursday night American military assistance to Jordan, which is expected to receive 16 F-16 fighter jets from the U.S.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Gen. Abdul Hafez Miral, chairman of Jordan's Joint Chiefs of Staff, are also expected to meet with Gen. Shalikhshvili, who will arrive here from Bahrain after visits to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

It will be Gen. Shalikhshvili's first visit to Jordan as chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. embassy confirmed that the general would pay a visit to the American Air Expeditionary Unit (AEF) at the Azraq air force base.

The AEF unit is conducting training exercises in Jordan and also staging surveillance flights over southern Iraq as part of a United Nations Security Council resolution adopted in 1994.

The unit, which completed a joint exercise with the Jordanian Royal Air Force codenamed "Eager Tiger" early this month, is also training Jordanian pilots of F-16 planes ahead of the expected delivery of the same type of planes to the Kingdom and helping upgrade the Azraq air force base to accommodate and maintain the F-16s.

Jordanian pilots are not taking part in the flights over southern Iraq, officials have said.

Jordan and the U.S. started joint military exercises in the early 80s under the umbrella of a joint military committee, which last met in the U.S. in April.

During their meeting, the King and Gen. Shalikhshvili are also expected to review Jordanian-American military cooperation and explore means to enhance defence ties between the two countries as well as discuss the latest developments in the Middle East and the situation in the Gulf region.

The central theme for Gen.

Kabariti, Algerian minister hold talks

ALGIERS (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti received at his residence in Algiers Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Attaf and discussed with him Jordanian-Algerian relations and the means to bolster them.

Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Attaf stressed that the viewpoints were identical and oriented towards Arab reconciliation.

The two sides also discussed pan-Arab relations and regional and international issues of common concern such as Iraq and the latest developments in the Middle East.

Mr. Kabariti and Mr. Attaf stressed the need to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people through implementing United Nations resolutions and the need to exert all efforts to help Iraq and its

isolation. Mr. Attaf described his meeting with Mr. Kabariti as constructive and dealt with issues of common concern to Jordan and Algeria.

In a statement to Petra, Mr. Attaf said: "The challenges the Arab Nation is facing requires Arab solidarity and steadfastness."

Mr. Kabariti and the accompanying delegation visited on Wednesday the Martyrs Monument in Algiers. They also visited an automobile plant.

Jordanian Ambassador in Algiers Mohammad Muqbel hosted a banquet for Mr. Kabariti and Algerian Prime Minister Ahmad Abu Yahya.

Mr. Kabariti arrived in Algiers on Tuesday and was received at the airport by his Algerian counterpart and senior Algerian officials.

2 killed, 6 injured in water-well accident

By Rana Hussein Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people died and six were injured, four of them critically, in an accident on Wednesday at a Hotel water well, a civil defence official said.

The accident occurred when two employees who were maintaining water pipes in the well in the Jerusalem hotel fainted because of lack of oxygen, said the official.

"An electric pump that the two men had brought down to the water well emitted carbon dioxide, causing the two men to faint," the official said.

Five hotel employees tried to rescue the men but they also fainted inside the six-

metre deep well because of lack of oxygen. One civil defence frogman suffocated while attempting to rescue them.

Four of the eight men rushed to the hospital were listed in critical condition. Two were declared dead on arrival, according to the official.

The deceased were identified as Maher Ghazi Mansour, 27, and Jihad Husni Ibrahim, 28.

The other victims were identified as Ashraf Jihad Tamimi, 28, a maintenance worker, Mohamed Khalil, 28, Ibrahim Mohammad Joumah, 31, Ibrahim Mohammad Sheikh, 31 and Hassan Mussa Hassan, 20.

Yilmaz faces censure motion on Monday

ANKARA (R) — The speaker of Turkey's parliament has called lawmakers into emergency session on June 3 to debate an Islamist censure motion against Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz that threatens to bring down the conservative coalition.

"Parliament has been called to a meeting on Monday, June 3, 1996, at 1500 (1200 GMT) with the conviction that it would not be suitable to have a meeting ahead of elections," Speaker Mustafa Kalemli said on Wednesday in a written statement.

The Islam-based Welfare Party (RP), which has stepped up pressure to break up the coalition, had initially

sought an emergency meeting ahead of municipal by-elections on June 2.

A vote on the motion, which will follow after a one-day mandatory break, could spell the end of the troubled alliance if the Islamists gain enough support from Mr. Yilmaz's opponents.

Coalition partner Tansu Ciller, a bitter personal rival of Mr. Yilmaz, has said her True Path Party (DYP) would support the censure motion and work for a proposed a right-left coalition.

"CHP (Republican People's Party), RP and DYP have announced they will support it," Mr. Ciller said in a television interview on Tuesday night.

Hekmatyar returns as Afghan premier

KABUL (AP) — Rebel leader and former government enemy Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been named Afghanistan's prime minister and will take power in the next few weeks, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction will also take control of Afghanistan's defence and finance ministries, said Aziz Murad, spokesman for President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

In exchange, Mr. Rabbani will continue to serve as President until elections can be held. With factional fighting raging south of the capital, elections are not likely to be scheduled any time soon.

"It has been agreed that the interim government will be controlled by Hezb-e-Islami and President Rabbani," Mr. Murad said during an interview.

"The prime ministry will go to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar," he said.

Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar signed a peace pact last week, ending four years of enmities.

Mr. Hekmatyar is expected to move into Kabul and the prime minister's residence during the next few days, Mr. Murad said.

In 1992, Mr. Hekmatyar was named prime minister but never took office when the Hezb-e-Islami broke off ties with Mr. Rabbani, sending the country into civil war.

Right up until recent months, the Hezb-e-Islami remained a bitter enemy of Mr. Rabbani's warring faction for control of the capital.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

S. Arabia urges Israel to end conflict

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia urged Israel to work to end its conflict with the Arabs no matter what the results in its national elections on Wednesday. Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, during a visit to Japan, urged the next Israeli government "to focus on ways to establish peace in the region and not on whether there will be peace or not," the official Saudi Press Agency reported. "Whatever the (new) Israeli government is, we hope it applies the principles of land for peace and works to establish a comprehensive peace in the region," Prince Saud said. "Whatever the result of the elections, it is indispensable for the Israelis to pursue the peace process and their negotiations with the Palestinians as well as with the Syrians and Lebanese," he said.

U.N. suspends Sahara voter ID mission

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to suspend its mission to register voters in Western Sahara for a referendum that would decide whether the region should be independent or ruled by Morocco. The council also voted to cut its 288-member observer mission by 20 per cent and to keep the remaining troops in Western Sahara until at least Nov. 30. U.N. observers were deployed in Western Sahara in 1991 to maintain a ceasefire between Morocco and the Polisario Front, which wants independence for the indigenous people. Morocco and the Polisario agreed in 1991 to allow a U.N. mission called MINURSO — United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara — to help conduct a referendum but the voting has been delayed by disputes over who should be registered to vote. "The required willingness does not exist to give MINURSO the cooperation needed for it to resume and complete the identification process," the council said.

Lebanon police kill gunman in clash

BAALBEK (R) — Lebanese soldiers and police destroying cannabis fields in an eastern Lebanon village clashed with gunmen on Wednesday, killing one of them, security source said. They said the incident occurred in Deir Al Wassah village, 25 kilometres west of the city of Baalbek in the Bekaa Valley, a major centre for a flourishing illegal drugs trade during Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. Gunmen in the village opened fire at the government forces as they were destroying a 1.25-acre wide cannabis field. The soldiers and policemen — who also confiscated 150 kilograms of hashish from the village — fired back, killing one of the gunmen, the sources added. Lebanese authorities have launched a campaign against the cultivation, processing and trafficking of drugs since 1992.

Iran paper warns Britain over U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper has warned Britain against following the United States' anti-Iran policy saying it would not be in London's interest. Commenting on remarks by British Armed Forces Minister Nicholas Soames during a visit to the Gulf, the English-language Tehran Times said that historically Britain had not been very friendly with Iran. Mr. Soames told a news conference in the United Arab Emirates on Monday Iran was a "brooding force in Middle Eastern affairs" and, with Iraq, continued to pose a threat. The Tehran Times said: "At a time when all members of the European Union unequivocally stress Iran's crucial role in maintaining peace and regional security, Soames, whose obedience to Washington is crystal clear, repeats what the U.S. has been baselessly alleging over the past years."

Palestinians will be expelled from Libya, Qadhafi insists

CAIRO (Agencies) — Despite a personal plea from Egypt's president, Libyan leader Moammar Qadhafi insisted Wednesday that he would soon deport thousands of Palestinians so that they no longer live as refugees.

Last year, Colonel Qadhafi expelled 2,000 Palestinians to demonstrate his opposition to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords. After protests from Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he halted the expulsions but said that he would eventually throw them all out.

At the time, hundreds were stuck at a squalid camp in a desolate no man's land on the Egyptian-Libyan border. Most were turned back by Egypt, other Arab countries and Israel because they had no travel papers — a testament to their stateless plight.

Hoping to head off another refugee crisis, President Hosni Mubarak appealed to Col. Qadhafi at a news conference not to deport more Palestinians, some of whom have

lived in the country for decades.

"I hope that my brother Col. Qadhafi will reconsider the decision to return the Palestinians so that the issue will not be complicated further," Mr. Mubarak said.

But in dramatic fashion, Col. Qadhafi insisted that he had made up his mind and that he was only helping them to return home.

"We are not expelling them," he said. "We are just getting them closer to their homeland."

"By doing this, we are expressing our belief that the Palestinian issue has been resolved and the Palestinians have a national authority, a president, a land and a flag," he said.

He did not say when he would renew the deportations.

Col. Qadhafi's five-day visit to Egypt ended Wednesday. Since he arrived Friday, he has met President Mubarak, Egyptian officials, students, writers and union leaders, often expressing statements that seemed to embar-

ass his Egyptian hosts.

At a meeting with Cairo University professors and students, he said Kuwait should not be independent if it could not defend itself against Iraq. On Tuesday, Kuwait summoned the Libyan charge d'affaires in Kuwait to protest Col. Qadhafi's remarks.

Mr. Mubarak, however, has demonstrated that he considers Libya a good neighbour, even siding with it against the United States.

In a rare rebuke, Mr. Mubarak rejected U.S. charge that Libya is building an underground chemical weapons plant. He said he sent Egyptian inspectors to the site at Tarhuna, 65 kilometres southeast of Tripoli, and they found nothing.

"There is no chemical installation for the time being and there is no activity there," Mr. Mubarak said in an interview Tuesday with the Financial Times, a London newspaper.

U.S. officials have said the

(Continued on page 7)

Deputy defends committee's tour of RJ stations in Europe

By Tareq Momani Special to the Jordan Times

LONDON — The head of a parliamentary committee currently in London to study the affairs of Royal Jordanian (RJ) said here that the committee was not holding investigations or inspections but was reviewing the general situation of the national air carrier as entrusted by parliament.

Mohammad Abu Oteim (deputy from Mafrq) told the Jordan Times that the Lower House had formed the committee of deputies and entrusted them to tour RJ

offices in European capitals after it had found there was need for this mission in the wake of conflicting reports about the performance of RJ's offices in Amman and abroad.

"With our mission we seek to help the government to find out the flaws and weaknesses in RJ's establishment and help it retain its character as a respected national institution enjoying high reputation at the domestic and external fronts and worthy of passengers' confidence," said Dr. Abu Oteim.

The parliamentarians' trip has sparked a controversy following an article in the local press describing the trip to Madrid, London and Rome as a farce, which prompted committee member Ahmad Kassasbeh to threaten to take the columnist to court.

Columnist Fahd Faneek had said that the committee's 12-day trip was a waste of public funds and a farce that would not achieve any purpose but would provide the deputies with a free touristic trip to Europe.

The committee is entrusted with studying the function and situation of

these RJ stations and to seek a way to promote their services and activities to help increase the number of tourists to Jordan," Dr. Abu Oteim said.

He said that the committee had received numerous complaints about the performance of the RJ stations in Arab and foreign countries.

The committee will submit a comprehensive report to the Lower House, clarifying details about reasons behind the national carrier's indebtedness and suggesting proposals to address the situation.

He said that those who are

found responsible for the debts should be held accountable.

According to Hassan Nabulsi, RJ's regional executive here, the London office ranks first in Europe in terms of the volume of passengers and the number of flights it handles.

He said that RJ operates six weekly trips to London seven as of July adding that the London station forsee revenues of more than \$22 million this year.

Of the 43 employees at the London station two are Jordanians and the rest are British.

COLUMN

Parachutist hurt when landing on tombstone

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — A professional Belgian parachutist was injured when she landed on a tombstone during a competition in Malaysia's eastern state of Pahang, reports said Wednesday. Deceunick Greet, 42, suffered bruises and injuries to her thigh and waist after drifting two kilometres off course and landing on an ethnic-Chinese cemetery in Kuantan, the state capital of Pahang. A competition official said Greet, who had a record of more than 2,000 jumps, had waited too long to open her parachute. "While coming down, she only opened her parachute at a height of 600 metres (1968 feet)," competition Chairman Mohammad Saib was quoted saying by the new Straits Times daily. "She should have done that when she was at 800 metres," Mr. Mohammad added. Ms. Greet was one of 200 participants in a Malaysian Armed Forces parachuting competition.

Tourist takes a long time to fetch the papers

LONDON (R) — An embarrassed New Zealand tourist who popped out in the car to fetch the Sunday papers was found 11 hours later and 100 miles (160 kilometres) away after he ran out of petrol, the Daily Telegraph reported Wednesday. Brian Page, 66, left his aunt's home in Hampshire, southern England, and was soon hopelessly lost. Mr. Page, who had arrived in Britain the day before, was unable to ask for directions because he did not know his aunt's address. Police finally discovered him wandering down a country road looking for petrol after an odyssey that took him through the neighbouring counties of Dorset and Wiltshire. "When officers found him he was safe but a bit embarrassed. I don't think he managed to get a paper," Paul Sparks of Hampshire Police told the Daily Telegraph.

U.S. judge rules she is a he — wanted for murder

LOS ANGELES — A judge ruled that a woman was in fact a man who underwent a sex change and is wanted for a murder 17 years ago in South Carolina. "The court is satisfied that this is the person that is wanted," Los Angeles Municipal Judge Jacob Adajian said after comparing fingerprints with FBI records. His ruling confirmed that Valerie Nicole Taylor used to be Freddie Lee Turner, who was suspected in the 1979 shooting death of Billy Marshall Posey in Gaffney, South Carolina. The 40-year-old defendant, who underwent a sex-change operation and a legal name change five years ago, has refused to return to South Carolina. Judge Adajian ordered her held without bail in a women's prison pending an extradition hearing.

British cricket groundsman dies under own roller

OXFORD, England (R) — A groundsman at Oxford University was fatally crushed under his heavy roller as he was preparing a cricket pitch, police said. The 55-year-old worker, whose name was not released, slipped under the giant grass-roller being used on a university sports field. He died a short while later at a city's hospital. A police spokesman said the man's death was being treated as a tragic accident.